

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXI, Issue No. 113

SATURDAY MAY 14, 2011

www.saipantribune.com 50¢

Visit us online @
www.saipantribune.com

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you plan to drop
by the Taste of the
Marianas anytime
this month?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

INSIDE



Email Network

Despite having no Internet access
in his hideout, Osama bin Laden
was a prolific email writer.

NATION...Page 10



Contest Winner

A tattoo artist is the only Filipino
among the top winners in a recent
art contest.

MAHARLIKA...Page 12



Conan Returns

Arnold Schwarzenegger plots his
return to Hollywood: single and not
a politician.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Retired cop gets guilty, not guilty verdicts. PAGE 2
'2012 will be a very tough year for public schools' PAGE 3

INVESTOR WITH \$100M TO SPARE WANTS TO KNOW

Why are other investors' plans failing?



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The Senate led by Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) present a framed copy of a Senate resolution to China-based investor Tie Liang Jia, sixth from right, for his interest in revitalizing Tinian and the CNMI's tourism and casino industries, during a brief ceremony in the Senate chamber on Capital Hill yesterday. Jia, owner of China-based real estate firm Sheng Jia Heng Xin, along with 22 other investors and guests, are on a nine-day fact-finding mission to the CNMI for different investments such as a casino resort and boardwalk on Tinian and a hotel on Saipan.

» Group eyes Coral Ocean Point, Saipan Grand Hotel

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A China-based group of investors said yesterday it could invest \$100 million or more in the CNMI, including building a casino resort on Tinian and a hotel on Saipan, but wants to know first why other foreign investors did not succeed or pursue their multi-million dollar plans.

Tie Liang Jia, owner of the China-based real estate firm Sheng Jia Heng Xin, along with 22 other partner investors and guests, are on a nine-day fact-finding mission to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Jia, through a translator, said they have yet to decide whether to buy Coral Ocean

See INVESTORS on Page 4

Opposition dominates public hearing on Marpi poles project

» Fitial admin: Generator at cemetery owned by contractor, not govt

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Only one person favored having power poles in Marpi for safety and security. The rest opposed the installation of power poles in the northern part of the island

during Thursday night's public hearing hosted by the House Committee on Natural Resources on Capital Hill.

Private citizen Glen Hunter questioned why the Capital Improvement Project Office is so adamant about pursuing the project when the Marpi public cemetery and the Veterans Cemetery already have standalone power generators, and property owners have not

See OPPOSITION on Page 4

Adams receives NMC contract offer

» \$80K salary not subject to austerity measures



Adams

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The applicant selected to become the next president of the Northern Marianas College has been formally offered a contract by the Board of Regents and is now reviewing the proposal, according to board chair Juan T. Lizama.

Dr. Christa Adams, a former president of Owens Community College in Ohio, confirmed Thursday in a conversation with Lizama that she received the contract offer.

Adams has until Tuesday to decide on the matter, ac-

See ADAMS on Page 4

EMS Week May 15-21, 2011 • EMSC Day May 18, 2011



Firehouse Open House, May 21, 2011 • 9am – 2pm (Garapan Fire Station)
Bike Rodeo, May 21, 2011 • 9am – 2pm (American Memorial Park)

Bike Parade starts at Horiguchi Bldg at 8am and will end at Garapan Fire Station

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, FIRE DIVISION, OFFICE OF EMS • SAIPAN (670) 664-9135 • TINIAN (670) 433-9030 • ROTA (670) 532-9081 • www.dps.gov.mp



Local

IN FRUIT BAT POACHING CASE

Retired cop gets guilty, not guilty verdicts

» **Mendiola faces maximum penalty of 6 months in prison, \$25K fine**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A federal jury yesterday found retired police lieutenant Adrian Mendiola both guilty and not guilty of charges relating to the 2008 poaching incidents of Mariana fruit bats on Rota.

The 12 jurors found Mendiola guilty of unlawful possession of a threatened wildlife but not guilty of unlawful receipt or

acquisition of threatened wildlife.

The jurors reached their verdict after less than five hours of deliberations.

Mendiola appeared calm as the jury's foreperson read their verdict at 2:10pm.

Unlawful possession of threatened wildlife carries a maximum penalty of six months

in prison and a \$25,000 fine.

Mendiola will be sentenced on Aug. 16, 2011, at 9am.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge John A. Houston allowed Mendiola to remain free on bail until his sentencing date.

Defense counsel Ramon Quichocho told *Saipan Tribune* after the hearing that they respect the jury's decision and that he will talk to Mendiola



Schuler

about his post-trial options.

U.S. attorney Kirk Schuler, who prosecuted the case, said he is pleased with the verdict. The U.S. government, he said, is pleased to help protect the cultural and ecological significance of Mariana fruit bats, locally known as *fanihi*.

"It's a positive verdict for the community and the culture. It is

clear that the verdict acknowledges that the community thinks that the *fanihi* are important species to protect," Schuler said.

Mendiola, Rota Customs Officer 3 Albert Taitano, and Division of Fish and Wildlife staff David Santos were indicted in September 2010 over poaching incidents in 2008 when two of the few

remaining breeding colonies of the Mariana fruit bat were decimated by hunters using 12-gauge and .410 shotguns.

The court later dismissed without prejudice the charges against Taitano and Santos following the prosecution's motion. Dismissal without prejudice means the government may re-file the case in the future.

13 Head Start children test high for lead content

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Four percent of students screened for lead at CNMI Head Start centers was found with high levels of the chemical at the start of the school year, according to the program's latest report to the Board of Education.

The 2010-2011 Updated Community Assessment report prepared for the CNMI Head Start program disclosed that 13 children—out of the 292 kids tested—were found to have blood lead levels greater than or equal to 10 micrograms per deciliter. This translates to 4 percent of the tested population. The normal range is less than 5 micrograms per deciliter.

Saipan Tribune learned that parents of the 13 schoolchildren were advised to have their chil-

dren undergo second screening with their primary doctor.

According to the report, most second screening results thus far were found to be within the normal range.

Head Start implemented its first lead screening for enrolled children in 2009 at the instruction of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. At that time, of the 462 enrollees, 336 were tested and 16 children were found with high lead content. The 2009 number translates to 5 percent of the tested population.

Lead, a poisonous metal, contains a neurotoxin that is harmful to fetuses and developing young children. Extremely high levels can result to seizure, coma, and even death.

At the Education Board's last meeting, chair Marylou S. Ada

emphasized the need for Head Start to closely monitor its enrollees for lead exposure. This, she said, was one of the major concerns raised during recent site visits by the Head Start Policy Council and other federal officials.

Board member Lucy Blanco-Maratita sought a detailed action plan on how Head Start will address the issue. She pointed out the need to clarify where the lead is coming from and how children can be prevented from being exposed to the chemical.

Head Start is a federally funded program under the auspices of PSS. It provides comprehensive services to income eligible children and families. It currently serves 462 children. There are 10 centers on the three major islands—seven on Saipan, two on Rota, and one on Tinian.

CNMI Archives gets 30,000 pages of Spanish-era docs

The CNMI Archives at Northern Marianas College recently received a large collection of photocopied historical documents from the Northern Mariana Islands Humanities Council. The documents are from the Spanish colonial administration of the Mariana Islands during the 1800s. Spain occupied the entirety of the Mariana Islands from 1565 until 1898 when it lost the Spanish-American War. In 1899, Spain sold the Northern Mariana Islands to Germany.

"The Council wanted a permanent home for these significant historical documents and we could not think of a better place than the CNMI Archives at NMC," said Humanities Council executive director Scott Russell.

The original documents were located and photocopied by historian Dr. Carlos Madrid at the Philippine National Archives in Manila in 2010. Many of these documents date to the 19th century.

"We are very excited to have received such a valuable collection of historical documents," said CNMI Archivist



NMC

CNMI Archivist John Cook receives the photocopied historical documents from NMI Humanities Council board chair Tracy Guerrero. The 30,000 pages of photocopied documents on daily life in the Mariana Islands during the Spanish era will now be housed at the CNMI Archives at the Northern Marianas College.

John Cook. "We look forward to making this collection available and readily accessible to the public. I am very grateful to Scott Russell and Tracy Guerrero at the NMI Humanities Council for entrusting us with these materials."

Madrid's research, supported by a "We the People" grant awarded to the Council by the National Endowment for the Humanities, was a part of a con-

tinuing Council initiative to locate and make available primary source materials that document the history and cultures of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Russell said the Council looks forward to continuing its collaborative relationship with the CNMI Archives in the coming years. Cook also expressed his enthusiasm for continued collaboration between the archives and the Council. (NMC)



ESGR VOLUNTEERS

ESGR CNMI Committee volunteers, from left, Janice Tenorio, Ed Salas, and Rose Igitol, have their picture taken during the Briefing with the Boss luncheon at Pacific Islands Club last Friday.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Senate rejects amendments to derivative lawsuit bill, forms conference committee

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haiddee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senators rejected yesterday the House amendment to a Senate bill that allows beneficiaries of trusts and retirement fund programs to take legal action on behalf of trusts or the NMI Retirement Fund when trustees who manage them refuse to bring such actions.

By a vote of 8-0, the Senate rejected Senate Bill 17-43, Senate Draft 1, House Substitute 1.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) formed a conference committee that will meet with their counterparts from the House to work on a "compromise" version of the bill.

Manglona appointed Senate floor leader as head of the Senate conferees, along with Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) and Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota).

Manglona and the other senators cited "legal" and "technical" concerns on the latest version of the bill, which the House passed on April 27.

The decision to reject the bill comes after the Senate met with the NMI Retirement Fund, attorney Robert O'Connor, retir-

ees and other stakeholders.

"This bill has been brought to the attention of the Retirement Fund a year ago, and there's not much progress until they saw it about to get out of the Legislature. We want to do what's right to protect the interest of the retirees," Manglona said.

The House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, which had recommended the passage of SB 17-

43, SD1, HS1, said the substitute bill "eliminates" criticism hurled against the original bill.

Among other things, the substitute bill on the beneficiary derivative act is a new section "limiting the right to sue."

This new section does not give retirees the right to sue the CNMI government "to force government contributions to the Northern Mariana Island Retirement Fund."

Fed court vacates jury trial of DPW official in extortion case

The federal court vacated yesterday the scheduled May 16 jury trial of a Department of Public Works building code inspector who faces an extortion case.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Consuelo B. Marshall instead set a change of plea hearing for defendant Thomas S. Salas on that day, Monday, at 9am.

Marshall issued the order based on an agreement between assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley and the court-appointed counsel for Salas.

Both parties notified the court on Tuesday that Salas has entered a plea agreement with the

U.S. government. The parties asked the court to vacate the jury trial and set a change of plea hearing.

The indictment charged Salas with one count of extortion under color of official right. According to the indictment, the defendant used his position with the DPW to demand bribes from the owner of a printing press in exchange for not imposing building code violation fines.

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents arrested Salas on Sept. 7, 2010, after he allegedly extorted a total of \$200 cash from the businessman. (Ferdie de la Torre)

Waldo: FY 2012 will be a very tough year for public schools

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Public School System official is warning that fiscal year 2012 will be "a very tough year" for the school system, largely because federal grants that were awarded this year won't be available next year.

At the same time, PSS finance director Richard Waldo said the school system's budget from the CNMI central government has dropped from \$31 million to only \$28 million this fiscal year and they expect the amount to remain the same in fiscal year 2012.

"Because we are not expecting any ARRA funds next fiscal year, it would be very difficult for the public schools to operate

next school year," said Waldo, adding that the system stands to receive the same budget amount of \$28 million for all its 20 public schools next year.

PSS expects to get a total of \$80 million this fiscal year. Of that amount, only \$28 million is sourced from the local government, representing public schools' operational budget for this fiscal year, according to the finance director.

The rest are federal grants that include the one-shot state fiscal stabilization fund and other funds from the American Recovery Reinvestment Act, and the consolidated grant.

Last fiscal year, PSS got \$32.4 million in state fiscal stabilization funds, about \$8.6 million in consolidated grants,

and a \$6.4 million energy grant, among other federal monies.

Due to the across-the-board cut in the local government's budget, Waldo said the original budget of \$31 million for PSS this fiscal year dropped to only \$28 million.

With no special federal grants available next fiscal year, Waldo warns of a very tough year for PSS starting October 2011.

He disclosed that PSS has over 1,100 employees, of which only about 400 are federally-funded. The rest are paid through the meager budget from the local government. He said the central government has assured, though, that it will pay for the remaining payroll of PSS employees until the end of this fiscal year.

Woman in fake credit cards use pleads guilty

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A woman arrested on Saipan on charges of visiting Guam for the sole purpose of using fake credit cards to buy expensive items pleaded guilty yesterday in federal court.

Wing Yee Tse, also known as Wing Yen Tse, pleaded guilty to two counts of access device fraud and two counts of misuse of immigration document as part of a plea deal.

She will be sentenced on Aug. 16, 2011 at 9am.

According to the plea agreement, Tse, a Chinese national, traveled to Guam beginning on Sept. 26, 2010, and used counterfeit and stolen credit cards to buy items at high-end shops Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Cartier, Rolex, Lin's Jewelry, and elsewhere.

Tse used, among others, a Diner's Club credit card issued to W. Y. Tse and an American Express credit card issued to Wing Yen Tse, for these purchases.

The total value of purchased items was estimated at \$20,000.

Tse also tried to purchase Gucci merchandise valued at a total of about \$6,000.

Tse entered Guam as a tourist under the Guam Visa Waiver program. She stated that she has not been arrested nor convicted of any crime, despite knowing that she had been previously convicted in Hong Kong for possession of dangerous drugs.

Police first arrested Tse on Saipan in November 2010 after a Louis Vuitton staff in Garapan discovered a misuse of credit cards involving the defendant.

Compounding the situation is the lack of a budget for public schools' utility consumption this fiscal year, resulting in more than \$2 million unpaid obligation to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. as of this week. Just recently, PSS paid CUC only about \$75,000, taken from federal monies.

The NMI Retirement Fund is another major creditor, Waldo said, with PSS owing the Fund over \$22 million in unpaid employer contributions.

"PSS has no budget to pay for these obligations...they are not budgeted under our appropriation," he said.

He assured, though, that PSS will pay in full the contributions

Matson to hike fuel surcharge for Pacific islands

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Matson Navigation Co., which ships goods from the U.S. mainland to Pacific Islands, announced Wednesday its plans to raise its fuel surcharge for its service in Hawaii, Guam, the CNMI, and the rest of Micronesia.

Citing high fuel prices, the shipping company said it will increase its fuel surcharges by four percentage points starting June 12.

With the latest increase, fuel surcharge for shipments to Hawaii will rise from 43.5 percent to a record high of 47.5 percent.

of employees who wish to resign or retire, so as not to hamper the release of their pensions.

Financial impact

In the event that over a hundred classroom teachers fail to become "highly-qualified" by the July 31 deadline, Waldo said their exit will "save" PSS an estimated \$3 million to \$4 million next fiscal year.

He pointed out, though, that this will also mean risking substantial federal monies for PSS.

"If we let go of the non-HQTs, the financial impact to personnel cost is estimated between \$2 [million] and \$3 million. But the fact that we don't have enough HQTs in the classrooms, we cannot get federal monies," he said.

Fuel surcharge for services in the CNMI, Guam, and Micronesia will rise from 45 to 49 percent.

This is the fourth fuel surcharge hike announcement by Matson this year. The last one was on March 31.

David Hoppes, senior vice president, said in a statement that Matson understands how energy costs are a "major concern for businesses and consumers. However, gas prices have "failed to stabilize" since their last fuel surcharge increase and continued to go up instead.

"Unfortunately, transportation companies are especially hard hit, with fuel consumption

Funding comparisons

Based on PSS data, the system received a combined funding of \$63 million in fiscal year 2005, of which \$37.2 million was from local sources and \$25.8 million was from federal grants.

This went up in 2007 to \$66.5 million, with \$37.2 million from local sources and \$29.3 million in federal funds.

In 2007, PSS' combined funding dipped to \$65.3 million: \$28.6 million, local; \$38.7 million, federal.

PSS received the highest funding level in 2008, totaling \$69.8 million: \$35.8 million, local; and \$33.9 million, federal.

This went down to \$65 million in 2009: \$34.6 million, local; and \$30.5 million, federal.

an unavoidable and significant component of operating costs. As with all increases, Matson gives our customers 30 days advance notice prior to implementation. As a result we are just now beginning to recover some of the extraordinary fuel related costs that necessitated our last increase. We will continue to monitor fuel prices and adjust the surcharge accordingly," he said.

Fenny Hair Cut Beauty Parlor
Mother's Day Special
Perm \$25.00 • Color \$20.00 • Steam Oil \$10.00
UV Gel Nail Sculpture Nails Vitreous Nails **50% OFF**
Tel: 235-0393 • Open Daily: 10:00am - 10:00pm
Located in Chalan Pao Road beside Holiday Club

WALK/RUN WITH SOPHIA-FIESTA

Saipan Outdoor Physical Healthy Invigoration Adventure
Sunday, May 15, 2011

Registration - 6:00 a.m. • Start Time - 6:30 a.m.

Starting point Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan

10K Turning Point - Across the MVA office in San Jose

5K Turning Point - Across Saipan Gold Beach Hotel

\$10 registration fee you will get:

- Goody bag w/lots of free gifts inside, including a SOPHIA-FIESTA T-shirt (first 200 registered participants)
- Light breakfast & entertainment at Fiesta's Ocean View
- Medals and \$100 cash prize awarded to each category:
Best Costume, Largest Group Participant, Youngest Walker/Runner (4-11 yrs. old)
Oldest Walker/Runner, 1st female to finish 10K; 1st male to finish 10K;
1st female to finish 5K; 1st male to finish 5K

Advance Registration may be done at PDI's office or Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

For inquiries please contact Mario@322-8786, Hiroko @ 322-8778,

Bea @ 285-1694 or Elena @ 234-6412 ext. 1512



CNMI kicks off Safe Boating Week

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will be celebrating the 2011 Safe Boating Week from May 15 to 21, 2011.

The U. S. Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary, and the Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Division want to remind local boaters to always wear a life jacket and ensure

basic safety and emergency equipment is functional when underway in a boat.

This year's Safe Boating Week forms part of the 2011 North American Safe Boating Campaign, which seeks to increase awareness and enhance the importance of safety for boaters and water sports enthusiasts.

The CNMI's campaign was initiated with a proclamation issued by CNMI Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos on April 29 in honor of 2011 Safe Boating Week.

The volunteer membership of CNMI's Coast Guard Auxiliary and DPS Boating Safety will have static displays, be on hand to answer questions, and conduct voluntary Vessel

Safety Checks according to the following schedule:

- May 15: Sugar Dock, 8am to 12pm.
- May 18: Fishing Base, 8am to 12pm.
- May 19: Lower Base, 8am to 12pm.
- May 20: Smiling Cove Marina, 8am to 12pm.
- May 21: Smiling Cove Marina, 8am to 12pm.

The Vessel Safety Check entails Coast Guard Auxiliary and DPS Boating Safety examinations of all required safety equipment for recre-

ational boats and personal watercraft for availability, functionality and general seaworthiness. They can assist mariners "boat smart from the start."

For more information on Safe Boating Week and general boating safety, contact DPS Boating Safety Division at (670) 664-9180, the U. S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment Saipan at (670) 236-2969, or visit Coast Guard's boating safety Web site at www.uscgboating.org. (**USCG**)



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Free band and choral concert at AMP

The Friends of the Arts will be hosting a special band and choral concert on Sunday, May 15, from 4pm to 6pm, at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater. There will be no charge for attending and enjoying the concert. It is being sponsored by several businesses in the community.

The concert, titled From Sea to Shining Sea, will have an Americana theme with a variety of songs from American history and music culture performed by:

- Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band, co-directed by Will DeWitt and Christina A. Nieras
- People in the Park (a choral group), directed by Ruthi Fruit
- MHS Chorale, directed by Ruthi Fruit
- KHS Chorus, directed by Colleen O'Laughlin
- The Rocketeers (a show choir), directed by Harold Easton
- Vocal Explosion (a show choir), directed by Harold Easton (**PR**)

Navy training on Warning Area-517

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on May 17-18 from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

The public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon

comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. (**USN**)

Learn how to make *dinisdisi*

Are you a Chamorro or a Carolinian? Do you know what is "dinisdisi?" Learn how to make *dinisdisi* and have it for lunch this Saturday, May 14, 2011.

The Chamorro/Carolinian Cultural Center (with the hut) at 1213 Capitol Hill Road is offering free classes this month on traditional food preparations. Today, May 14, the Center is offering free classes on making *dinisdisi*, coconut oil, and fish/meat dryer. Classes start at 9am and end around noon.

Chamorros and Carolinians (ages 14-99) are invited to come and attend free classes on Chamorro and Carolinian traditional knowledge and practices. Go to building 1213 Capitol Hill Road, south of Isa Drive. Building 1213, with the hut, is across the CNMI Workforce Investment Agency and by the CNMI Board of Parole Office. (**PR**)

Noni juice workshop at UOG today

The University of Guam's Cooperative Extension Service (Communities, Youth, Families, Food and Nutrition Unit) will host a noni juice workshop from 9am to noon on May 14 at the

UOG Agriculture and Life Sciences building, room 127. The workshop will cover noni plant propagation and making fresh noni juice in the home. Fifty slots are available. Register by calling 735-2062/2029 by May 12. A \$5 registration fee covering materials and noni juice sampling will be collected on the workshop day. (**UOG**)

Free business workshops

The CNMI Small Business Development Center, in partnership with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, will be hosting the following free workshops:

- How to start a business: May 17, 2011, 9am to 11am
- How to write a business plan: May 18, 2011, 9am to 11am

The workshops will be held at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office on the first floor of the Famila Building in Garapan. Deadline for pre-registration is 12pm, May 20, 2011. For more information contact Ralph Yumul at 664-3018. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities must be made 72 hours in advance.

The CNMI Small Business Development Center is partially funded by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. (**SCC**)

Services to US armed forces

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter is inviting all U.S. military service members—active, reserve, Guard, and veterans—to attend a "Health & Well Being Workshop" on Saturday, May 28, 2011, at the Pacific Islands Club's

Charley's Cabaret.

The workshop, from 8:30am to 12pm, will feature:

- Red Cross "Get to Know Us" briefing
 - Ruth Coleman of Veterans affairs
 - VA clinic Medical Associates of the Pacific, LLC.
 - VFW Post Commander
- The workshop, breakfast, lunch, and

ADAMS

From Page 1

cording to Lizama.

"We're providing Dr. Adams ample time to review the proposal so we're expecting her decision by next week," he said.

According to Lizama, Adams asked about some of the language and provisions of the contract offer but he described these as "preliminary" in nature.

"We're still in the negotiation process with Dr. Adams and we're hopeful that she will accept the offer. Although she raised some questions [in the contract], these are just preliminary," Lizama told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

He said the proposal keeps the \$80,000 annual salary offer and the provision that her employment can only be terminated with cause or reason. The salary will not be subject to any austerity measures. Lizama said the proposal also keeps the \$800 monthly housing allowance and corresponding vacation leaves.

Although these conditions may still

be changed, Lizama said that would depend on the board, acting pursuant to the parameters it set in hiring the qualified candidate.

Adams, the board's original top pick, had previously withdrawn her application due to family reasons. She later asked the board to reconsider her application after resolving her family situation.

The board's other top candidates, Dr. Sharon Hart and Dr. Jeff Armstrong, both rejected the college's offers.

The board on Tuesday unanimously selected Adams and described her selection as "the right direction to pursue" for the college, which remains on show-cause status with the Accrediting Commission for Community Junior Colleges.

The commission had identified 10 areas of concern at NMC, including the institution's unstable leadership. The fate of NMC will be known in June after the commission's assembly next month.

NMC has had seven presidents in the last 10 years. Its last president was Dr. Carmen Fernandez, who was fired last year. Lorraine T. Cabrera is currently the interim president.

OPPOSITION

From Page 1

asked for power.

Hunter said that after visiting Marpi again yesterday, the public cemetery already has power, with a fully functioning sprinkler system and a fully functioning bathroom with water for flushing the toilet.

He said if there's already power at the cemetery, there's no longer a need for the power poles to be hooked up to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Echoing other members of the Friends of the Marpi, Hunter said the poles installed in Marpi should be removed as they mar the beauty of Marpi.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment yesterday, said the power generator that Hunter is referring to is owned by the contractor and not the government, and would therefore be removed once the contractor is done with the Marpi public cemetery project.

He said the power generator is there not for the cemetery's operations, but for the contractor's use in completing the project.

Maeda Pacific bagged a \$2.9 million contract for the construction of a Marpi

public cemetery. The contract includes the installation of power poles.

"The contractor has a generator running because there is no power supply for him to fulfill the terms of the contract, which include irrigation to grow the grass in the area. Once the contractor runs the irrigation system for six months, then the generator will be removed from the area. Otherwise, that generator is not there for purposes of the cemetery's operations," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Demapan also said that a generator would be "an inadequate power supply to run the lights and irrigation systems for both the veterans and the soon-to-be-completed public cemetery."

Hunter also described as "absurd" the testimony by assistant attorney general Jim Stump, representing the CIP Office and the Fitial administration, about the need for power poles and power supply in Marpi.

Hunter claims that it is only Stump who is determined to complete the power pole project in Marpi despite overwhelming opposition and readily available alternatives.

Hunter and former representative Tina Sablan, both members of the Friends of Marpi, were among those who testified at the House committee's

public hearing.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, said the panel was glad to hear directly from the public about their concerns over the Marpi power poles.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo issued a preliminary injunction that momentarily stops for 90 days the CNMI government from completing its power poles project in Marpi.

Juan C. Reyes, who owns a property in Marpi, was the only one who testified in favor of the power poles project during the House panel's public hearing.

He said Marpi will become safer at night if there are electric lights in the area. Reyes plans to someday build a Chamorro/Carolinian cultural center in Marpi.

Palacios said those who spoke up at the hearings in Govendo's courtroom were only those who were opposed to the Marpi power poles, and the committee hoped that the public hearing would draw others in support of the project.

The committee will hold another public hearing on May 18, at 6pm, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

INVESTORS

From Page 1

Point or Saipan Grand Hotel on Saipan.

"We're not sure which one is the best. We need to do more research," said Jia through one of two translators.

He said they also want to do more research before finally partnering with Bridge Investment Group, which has long planned to build a \$50-million casino on Tinian.

"As we know, there are lots of investors wanting to invest here but they're unsuccessful. We want to know the reason why they failed. We want to see. We don't want to rush," he said, adding that their purpose in coming here is to see whether there's government support for foreign investors like them.

They also would like to see the progress of development on the islands, and whether their plans would be profitable as well. They said the idea of bringing an airline is also on the table.

Jia, who is on his third visit to the CNMI in two months, is accompanied by 22 other investors, a movie director/producer, and actress Liu Fang Yu.

A few of them have already returned to China, but most have been meeting with CNMI government officials and

private businesses since arriving last week.

The group is not only interested in a casino resort on Tinian and a hotel on Saipan, but also on a new boardwalk on Tinian, agriculture, desalination, film industry, and other tourism-related ventures, among other things.

After visiting the Senate, the group also met yesterday with Commonwealth Ports Authority officials for a planned boardwalk on Tinian.

At the Senate, senators presented Jia with a resolution for his "interest in revitalizing the CNMI economy and his strong-willed efforts in tourism and the casino gaming industries" for Tinian and the CNMI.

Four CNMI senators including Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) went to Tianjin and Beijing, China in April at the invitation of Jia and Bridge Investment Group.

Jia and the others in the group said they were "amazed" with Rota, and would also like to invest on that island.

Phillip Mendiola-Long of Sherman Consulting, formerly an executive of Bridge Investment Group, also serves as consultant now for Jia's group of investors.

'No new lease contract for tenants with unpaid dues'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System won't get a new lease contract with the NMI Retirement Fund until all past dues are paid and settled.

Fund administrator Richard Villagomez said yesterday that the agency will only agree to a new lease agreement once PSS pays its obligation in full.

"In order to get a new lease

contract, PSS has to first address its past dues including utilities. That's our position," he said.

Villagomez disclosed that, including unpaid utilities as of last month, PSS now owes the Fund over \$280,000 in building rental through the end of the fiscal year in September.

PSS leases both the second and third floors of the Retirement Building on Capital Hill for its central offices and the Board of Education. Its lease

is for \$20,000 a month and \$10,000 in monthly utility consumption.

As of April this year, PSS' unpaid utility bill amounts to \$63,000, Fund officials said.

On Wednesday, PSS finance director Richard Waldo said the system is negotiating a new lease contract with the Fund.

Negotiations are, however, being hampered by the Fund's new condition—for PSS to make an advance payment equivalent to a fourth of its yearly rental, Waldo said.

Villagomez confirmed that the condition was created to make sure that PSS will stay current in its payment.

He could not say, though, if the Fund can still lower the rental amount.

PSS recently paid the Fund \$50,000, sourced from federal monies received by the system.

Waldo said the system plans to make another payment of \$240,000 as soon as it gets its allotment from the local budget.

Besides the arrears for the building rental, PSS also owes the Fund over \$20 million in unpaid employer contributions. Waldo said the amount covers penalties and accrued interest for many years. He admitted that this obligation is not budgeted under the system's fiscal year appropriation.

CUC now open on Saturdays

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s payment section on the first floor of the Joeten Dandan building will now be open on Saturdays, from 8am to 12pm.

According to CUC, the Sat-

urday hours are only for payment processing. All other customer service-related matters and inquiries will be addressed during regular business days and hours. **(CUC)**

MBA's Lee receives national honor

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A student of Marianas Baptist Academy, Youngeun P. Lee, was recognized for her superior academic achievement and was recently selected for membership in the National Society of High School Scholars.

According to Claes Nobel, chairman and the national society founder, Lee was chosen because of her hard work, sacrifice, and commitment to her studies and for achieving the level of academic excellence.

He said Lee is now a member of NSHSS—"a unique community of scholars and a community that represents the very best hope for the future."

According to its president, James Lewis, the society's vi-

sion is to build a dynamic international organization that connects members with meaningful content, resources, and opportunities.

"We aim to help students like Lee build on their academic successes and enhance the skills and desires to have a positive impact on the global community," said Lewis.

Lee is on MBA's principal's list and this year won in the National Forensic League competitions. She is also an active

participant to both schools and community events.

Membership in the national society entitled qualified students to enjoy a wide variety of benefits, including scholarship opportunities, academic competitions, free events, and others.



Lee

31 Tinian students learn from CNMI lawmakers

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian High School senior Joeeyenne Pangelinan, 17, found it "very enlightening" to hear directly from Senate and House of Representatives members on issues such as the lawmaking process, Article 12 or land ownership restriction, and casino investments.

Pangelinan, who wants to be a teacher someday, was one of 31 Tinian students of Govern-

ment and Economics Class under teacher Vincent King who visited the CNMI Legislature on Saipan yesterday.

The students got a brief overview of how the House of Representatives works, courtesy of members led by Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan).

They then proceeded to the Senate chamber where a session was being held.

After the Senate called for a short recess to talk with the Tinian High School students, Sen-

ate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and eight other senators took turns addressing the students on how a bill becomes law, the importance of working together, and challenges faced by the CNMI.

Edwin Cabrera Jr., a 16-year-old sophomore at Tinian High School, said it was quite an experience visiting the Legislature on Capital Hill for the first time.

Jared Borja, also a 16-year-old sophomore, said it's nice

to know that students like him could get to talk directly to their lawmakers—whether from Tinian, Rota, or Saipan.

"One of the things I learned is that we could actually talk to them directly," he told *Saipan Tribune*. But he said being an elected official seems to be "too hard." He said he would like to be a civil engineer someday.

Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Saipan) told the students that two former senators from Tinian became Senate presidents: the late Joaquin Adriano, and Joseph Mendiola.

Manglona urged the Tinian High School students to "study hard" and "go to college" after high school.

Sen. Luis Crisostimo (Ind-Saipan), during the meeting with students, personally handed a \$2,000 check donation to Tinian High School under the educational tax credit program. Crisostimo did not vote on a Senate bill that suspends the ETC program during periods of government austerity.

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), along with Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), and Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) also spoke to the students.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and other senators talk to 31 Tinian students of Government and Economics Class under teacher Vincent King who visited the CNMI Legislature on Saipan yesterday.



MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a Regular Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 19, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. at the MVA Conference Room, San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes – March 31, 2011
- II. Public Comments**
- III. Committee Reports**
 1. Finance
 2. Personnel
 3. Policy
- IV. Old Business**
 1. General Membership Meeting
- V. New Business**
 1. U.S. Small Business Administration: State Trade and Export Promotion
 2. Advertisement (Russia) – for Board sanction
 3. Korea FAM
 4. Contracts for renewal
 - a. MVA-RFP-10-2302
 - b. MVA-CT-10-2301
 - c. MVA-CT-10-2304
 5. Contracts requiring new RFP
 - a. MVA-RFP-08-2292
 - b. MVA-RFP-08-2293
 - c. MVA-RFP-08-2295
 - d. MVA-RFP-10-2303
 - e. MVA-CT-10-2302
 - f. MVA-CT-10-2305
 - g. MVA-CT-11-2303
 - h. MVA-CT-11-2304
- VI. Executive Session**
 - a. Personnel
 - b. Offshore Representation Office in China
- VII. Adjournment**

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chair, MVA Board of Directors



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Twelfth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Board Meeting on Thursday, May 19, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. at the Tinian Jr. Sr. High School Library, Tinian, MP.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary**
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
 - d. Adoption of Minutes
 - i. April 27, 2011 Special Board Meeting
- II. Public Comments¹**
- III. Executive Session²**
 - a. Legal Updates
 - b. Personnel
 - i. Legal Counsel Contract Renewal
 - c. Other matters
- IV. Reports**
 - a. Chair
 - b. Board Committees
 - i. CIA
 - ii. CIP
 - iii. FPA
 - iv. SEEP
 - v. LIA
 - vi. Ad Hoc
 - vii. School Reform
 - c. Student Representative
 - d. Commissioner of Education
 - i. Financial Status Reports
 - a. Federal
 - b. Local
 - ii. Other matters
- V. Unfinished Business**
- VI. New Business**
 1. Proposed Policy on Evaluation System for Classroom Teachers
 2. Proposed Policy on Evaluation System for School Administrators
 3. PSS License Agreement re Posting of Regulations to PSS Website
 4. HQT Requirements Matters re repeal of Praxis I requirement
 5. Revised Proposed Policy on Instructor Classification based on National Certification or Occupation License
 6. Ratification of BOE-PSS Letter to Governor Fitial on Senate Bill No. 17-68, "Education Tax Credit"
 7. Reprogram of Project ARRA Consolidated Grant
 8. Reprogram of SFSE Funds
 9. Striving Readers Grant Application
 10. CNMI AmeriCorps Audit Report and Responses
 11. Proposed PSS School Calendar for SY 2011-2012
 12. Proposed Anti-Bullying Policy
- VII. Miscellaneous Matters**
- VIII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting**
- VIX. Adjournment**

¹ Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

² Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated happy birthday greetings to our son, dad, husband, niao, parree, uncle, and grand uncle Rotz Taitano, who celebrated his 39th birthday on Friday the 13th! May God bless you with many more birthdays to come and party like a rock star! Love, from your kids and families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to Louie Hernandez Jr.! May you have many more birthdays to come and may all your wishes come true. God bless. Greetings come from your Joeten Ace Hardware family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy belated 3rd birthday to our son Gerard Christian, who celebrated his special day on May 13, 2011. May you have more blessings and birthdays to come! Love, Mom, Dad, Kuya Egie, Kuya Edrich, and Gray.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXI, Issue No. 113Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

Crossing borders

By RUBEN MARTINEZ
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Last year I visited a friend of mine, journalist Raul Silva, in a working-class neighborhood of Cuernavaca. A popular destination for tourists and students of Spanish, the city, about 60 miles south of the Mexican capital, was on edge. Only a few weeks before, a drug gang had audaciously displayed its power, issuing a curfew one Friday night, warning that anyone out after 8 p.m. might be “mistaken” as an enemy and killed. A terrified public huddled indoors, and although no serious violence occurred, the incident left a deep scar.

Raul and I spoke for hours, and I realized too late that I faced a taxi ride on a dark two-lane road to return to my wife and children in a nearby town. I asked Raul if he thought it was safe. “You should be OK,” he said, without much assurance in his voice.

It was a 30-minute ride with a gregarious cabbie who lectured me about (what else?) la guerra del narco, the drug war. “They” were all implicated, he told me, the cartel bosses and the mules, of course, but also the business elites, the governments, the addicts—on both sides of the border. In other words, there was no border.

There was a long stretch on that ride during which we passed not a single car. I asked the cabbie if he was worried. Not exactly; in Spanish, he invoked the classic fatalism: “When your time’s up, it’s up.” I made it back to my family without incident.

A year later the road is dark as ever. Nearly 300 bodies were discovered in April in narcofosas, mass graves of victims of the cartels. For Mexicans on both sides of the border, the Cinco de Mayo celebration, like last year’s centennial of the revolution and bicentennial of independence, has been overshadowed by the violence.

And yet an unlikely spark of hope has been lighted in recent weeks, and it began with the death of a poet’s child. Javier Sicilia, of Cuernavaca, a well-known author and regular columnist for Mexico’s leading political weekly Proceso, penned an anguished manifesto after his son, Juan Francisco, and several of Juan Francisco’s friends were killed in a narco-related crime (the victims had no known connection to the drug trade). Sicilia’s open letter is as lucid as it is piercing, a cry in the desert and righteous denunciation.

“What I want to tell you today about those mutilated lives,” wrote Sicilia of his son and by extension all victims of the drug violence, “about that suffering, about the indignation that these deaths has provoked, is simply that we have had enough.”

That italicized final phrase is an imperfect translation of the highly colloquial “estamos hasta la madre,” which invokes “mother,” as Mexicans often do in Spanish, in an elastic and metaphorical way. We are up to our “mother” in this suffering; we can take it no more; it has violated the most profound and sacred spaces of our spirit. The phrase becomes a mantra in Sicilia’s letter.

“Estamos hasta la madre,” he addressed the politicians, “with your struggle for power that has torn apart the fabric of the nation,” and likewise to the cartels, “with your violence, loss of honor, cruelty, your senselessness.”

Sicilia’s words galvanized the public and gave Mexicans a real-life, mad-as-hell “Network” moment. “Estamos hasta la madre” appeared on signs held up by grandmothers and children in protest marches nationwide, on countless Facebook pages, on the lips of people across all social strata. On Cinco de Mayo, Sicilia led several hundred protesters out of Cuernavaca on a march scheduled to arrive in Mexico City today, just one in a weekend of promised demonstrations.

Skeptics wonder exactly how a simple plea for peace and justice can stop the cycle of violence and impunity. But Sicilia is facing death and despair the only way he knows how, with the

See CROSSING on Next Page



"DO ME A FAVOR AND HANG ON TO THAT BIRTH CERTIFICATE, WILL YA?"

White House Situation Room: History's center stage

It's plenty busy at the White House these days, but somebody should take a moment to light 50 candles in honor of the Situation Room, that suite in the West Wing basement that's as modest in dimension and decor as it is grand in historical significance.

May marks the Situation Room's 50th birthday. Rooms are not usually given birthday parties, but if there's ever a time and place to make an exception, this is it. The “Sit Room,” as insiders call it, has seen an extraordinary amount of drama over the last half a century. And this month, once again, it provided the center stage of history—and yielded one of the defining images of recent memory—as President Obama and his staff crowded around the conference table to monitor the raid on Osama bin Laden's compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

The Situation Room was born in the spring of 1961, after national security adviser McGeorge Bundy brought in a team of Navy Seabees to convert an old bowling alley under the West Wing into a state-of-the-art command center for President Kennedy. The impetus for Bundy's renovation was the just-failed Bay of Pigs invasion, an attempt to overthrow Fidel Castro in April that went about as wrong as the attack on Osama bin Laden went right. (“A perfect failure,” is how one historian described the Bay of Pigs.)

Bundy believed that the explanation for the disaster partly lay in Kennedy's lack of unmediated, real-time intelligence from the CIA, State Department and Joint Chiefs of Staff, a deficit that had kept him at arm's length—and hours behind—the flow of information before and during the invasion. In the future, cables and other data would go directly to the president and his closest advisers in the Sit Room, rather than arriving at the White House secondhand.

Bundy may not have been correct in his analysis of the Bay of Pigs failure. The truth is that Kennedy would have benefited from better information, not more immediate information. Kennedy's flaw as an executive in those early months of his presidency was a tendency to favor loose organization, with no dependable administrative structure to ensure that he grasped the most pertinent facts of an operation.

Indeed, Bundy seemed to acknowledge this when he drafted a memo to Kennedy on May 16, 1961—among the first mentions of the Situation Room in writing. Citing a “problem of management,” Bundy asked Kennedy to commit himself to regular daily time slots for national security briefings. “After lunch? Tea? You name it,” he suggested a little cheekily. “But you have to mean it, and it really has to be every day. Will you try it? Perhaps the best place for it would be the new Situation Room which we have just set up in the basement of the West Wing.”

In the popular conception, the Situation Room refers to the conference room usually shown in photographs such as the one issued last week. In fact, it's a warren of small rooms, including a “surge

By JIM RASENBERGER

Los Angeles Times

Jim Rasenberger is the author of *The Brilliant Disaster: JFK, Castro, and America's Doomed Invasion of Cuba's Bay of Pigs*, published in April. His website is <http://www.jimrasenberger.com>. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



room” where watch officers sift through diplomatic cables and Internet traffic 24/7. The complex has undergone numerous renovations since 1961. The most recent, completed in 2007, outfitted the conference room with six flat-screen televisions, soundproof glass telephone booths for secure calls and, no doubt, other communication devices about which none of us will ever know unless we join the National Security Council.

The significance of the room in recent American history is almost immeasurable, not just for the role it has played in dramas like the one on May 1 but for what it has meant for the distribution of power in the government. By placing the nexus of the national security apparatus in the basement of the West Wing, Bundy effectively put the chief executive more squarely in the middle of the action, asserting and expanding his command and control.

The challenge for a 21st century president—as it was for Kennedy, even before the Situation Room opened—is to absorb all that information without becoming overwhelmed by it or giving into the temptation to micromanage, as President Carter reportedly did during the Iran hostage crisis.

Based on what the White House has released about the operation against bin Laden, Bundy's dream of a crisis center humming along at the center of real-time information seems to have been perfectly realized. Though the White House has not specified exactly what Obama and his aides were watching in the now-famous photograph, it's clear they were witnessing events unfold as they happened. It seems likely too that the president, had he chosen, could have communicated directly with the Navy SEALs inside bin Laden's compound.

The risks of such control for a president are almost as great as the merits. Had the operation failed, Obama would have had a far more difficult time distancing himself from it than Kennedy did from the Bay of Pigs debacle. After all, Kennedy's best excuse was that the CIA and Joint Chiefs gave him bad information. The Situation Room puts the weight of responsibility more squarely on the president's shoulders.

As matters turned out, Obama's gamble paid off. And the Situation Room at 50—just a few months older than the president himself—is looking grander than ever.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Q&A about the uprising in Syria

By SUSANNE FISCHER

THE INSTITUTE FOR WAR&PEACE REPORTING

Razan Zeitouneh, 34, is a respected human-rights lawyer who has gone into hiding after being accused by the government of being a foreign agent. She discussed the current uprising in Syria from an undisclosed location.

Question: Why are you wanted by the Syrian secret police?

Answer: The wanted list is very long these days; many of my friends have been arrested or are in hiding like me. The regime is arresting activists and ordinary people in large numbers. Many are tortured to break their spirits. The “ordinary” prisoners are released, so they tell of their fate and spread fear. Those with a leading role in the protests remain in custody.

Q: When did you go into hiding?

A: On March 23, after the massacre at the Omari mosque in Daraa. I gathered information from Daraa and passed it on to international media. Subsequently, Syrian state television defamed me as a foreign agent. So, I knew they would come to get me soon. I gathered the most necessary things and left my apartment.

Q: What about your family?

A: About two weeks ago, intelligence officers came to my husband’s workplace. They wanted to arrest him, but luckily he happened not to be there. So, he went into hiding as well. Later, security forces forcibly entered our apartment. My brother-in-law was there, and they took him instead of my husband. Since then, we have not heard from him.

Q: How do you obtain information about what is going on in the country while in hiding?

A: I have been working as a human rights lawyer for many years and defended many political prisoners and know most of the activists. I have a good network across the country.

Q: Can you describe the current situation in Daraa?

A: The situation is devastating. After the city was bombed and shelled, it was sealed off for days by the security forces. There is no electricity, no drinking water. There is almost no food, no milk for the children. In recent days, hundreds were arrested and herded into

the football stadium in the city. Dead bodies are lying in the streets because the security forces do not allow people to bury their dead. Some bodies were simply dumped on vegetable carts. It is a tragedy.

Q: Do you think that a tragedy like what occurred in Hama in 1982, when late president Hafiz al-Assad bulldozed an entire city and probably more than 10,000 people were killed, could be repeated in today’s Syria?

A: No, I do not think so. Despite all the crimes being committed by the regime these days Hama will not be repeated. Today, the whole world is watching, no matter how much the regime tries to shut out the media.

Q: How many people do you think have been killed since the beginning of the protests?

A: We estimate about 600 civilians. But the figure is only an approximation. Among the dead were several children who were “inadvertently” killed by the security forces.

Q: Why do you think the protests are continuing?

A: The people are not afraid anymore, not even of tanks and guns. That makes me optimistic, even if no one knows exactly what to do next. You know, at first, the Syrians were certainly inspired by the events in Tunisia and Egypt. But the real reasons for the protests ran deeper. People chanted, “The Syrian people want to live in dignity.” The driving force was the desire for a life free of humiliation from which we have been suffering for decades. From the outside, it is perhaps difficult to understand how painful it is to live year after year without dignity, not to be treated as a human being, but simply as a subject.

Q: How broad is the protest movement?

A: You cannot compare the numbers with Tunisia and Egypt. But at the same time, no other country has a security apparatus that would be comparable to Syria. I think people have shown incredible courage in facing this. What worries me is the commercial middle class. Many merchants are afraid of change.

Q: The regime insists that forces from abroad are behind the protests.

For Americans, to infinity and beyond

President Obama tried to use the announcement of the death of Osama bin Laden to get Americans to think big again. The successful end of a 10-year manhunt, he declared last week, was a “testament to the greatness of our country and the determination of the American people.”

But bin Laden’s death instead seemed to feed stubborn domestic divisions and conjure thorny geopolitical stalemates. Maybe the president should take a different tack to get the public to embrace the “big things” rhetoric he launched in January’s State of the Union address.

Maybe he should use the final days of the space shuttle program—the penultimate flight is scheduled for next week; the final flight is set for June—to get Americans to turn their attention to the heavens, literally and figuratively. Talk about thinking big.

Obama is right to try to pump us up. It isn’t just the gnawing self-doubt of the past globalized decade that has dampened our national aspirations. Or even the recession, though that hasn’t helped. It’s the earthbound, utilitarian side of our national character, let loose by our insecurities, that has been strangling our idealism and our imagination.

Historians long ago identified the ongoing tension between idealism and pragmatism that lies at the core of the American character. In 1915, Van Wyck Brooks described the nation’s “quite unclouded, quite unhyphenated assumption of transcendent theory (‘high ideals’)” and its “simultaneous acceptance of catchpenny realities.” In 1920, philosopher George Santayana argued that of all the people in the world, Americans had a unique ability to bring realism and idealism into harmony.

A half-century ago, President John F. Kennedy jump-started the can-do side of our national character, leveraging Americans’ competitive spirit and our love affair with technology to get us thinking about the great unknown. In less than a decade, we planted the Stars and Stripes on the moon.

Back then, the ultimate symbol of technological advancement was the spaceship. Today it’s the newest computerized gizmo.

That shift is powerfully reflective of a change in our values. It seems that these days, we’re most excited about technologies that better connect us to each other or better navigate the known world. We pursue links among the like-minded and access to knowledge

A: Those allegations have little substance. ... One day they blame the Saudi prince Bandar Ben Sultan, the next day the former Lebanese prime minister, Saad Hariri, then Syria’s former vice-president, then the Muslim Brothers ... only the Syrian people seem to have nothing to do with the protests.

Q: So, it’s really a people’s movement?

A: Without doubt. It is a rebellion of ordinary people, of women, fathers, sons and daughters. Among the arrested were housewives and grandmothers as well.

Q: President Bashar al-Assad has announced some reform: the lifting of the state of emergency; granting citizenship to stateless Kurds; and the abolishment of the notorious special security courts. Are these enough?

A: These steps don’t mean anything because they came after dozens of people were killed and hundreds arrested. They also were not really implemented—they are paper decisions to mislead the media and the international community.

Q: Many fear that a fall of the regime could lead to civil war and riots against religious minorities.

A: The Syrian people have in the past few weeks shown the world how peaceful and civilized they are. All the protesters insist on national unity and reject sectarian speeches. Despite massive military force on the part of the regime, the people remained peaceful.

Q: What role should the West play?

A: Syrians do not need any military intervention. We need political and diplomatic pressure on the regime to stop the violence against the people. Syrians have regained faith in themselves. We can take our future in our own hands.

Susanne Fischer is the Syria program manager for The Institute for War & Peace Reporting, a nonprofit organization that trains journalists in areas of conflict. Readers may write to the author at the Institute for War & Peace Reporting, 48 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8LT, U.K.; Web site: www.iwpr.net.

CROSSING

From Page 6

poetry of protest.

What is missing in all of this is us—I mean those of us on this side of the border who don’t live in immigrant neighborhoods. (There, there is already great distress, the perennial longing for the homeland becomes tragically poignant. There is no homeland to return to; the risk in too many cases is too great.)

Among the broader American public there has been no “Network” moment, no eloquent call to action. The drug war is perceived as Mexico’s, not ours, never mind that the weapons doing the bloodletting are in great part supplied by the United States—and not just through private dealers. We are implicated in the violence through the Merida Initiative, a U.S.-led program that provided \$750 million in technical support in 2009 and 2010 for the Mexican military, which promotes itself as above the corruption of state and local police but which has had thousands of human rights complaints logged against it, according to Mexico’s National Human Rights Commission.

And of course Americans have a more personal connection with the “Mexican” drug war. There is no innocent recreational drug use. Most of the cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine consumed in the United States is produced in or transported through Mexico. Almost all the blood spilled in the war has been in Mexico, but perhaps our bloodshed is the devastation experienced by addicts, their families and their communities.

I am years clean, long finished with the cocaine that I was once addicted to, but I cannot claim that my hands are clean. I was part of a global market, played my role as a consumer, entered the vast constellation of relationships that pushes and pulls drugs, money and guns across the border—and takes its toll on both sides.

There must be a language of “we” in this war because we are all its victims and victimizers. Let us listen to Javier Sicilia: “Estamos hasta la madre.” Or we should be—all of us.

Ruben Martinez is a professor at Loyola Marymount University. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

By GREGORY RODRIGUEZ

Los Angeles Times

Gregory Rodriguez is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him email at grodriguez@latimescolumnists.com.



that has already been catalogued. In other words, we’re excited by exploring the universe horizontally not vertically. We’ve replaced wonder with a search algorithm.

Worse yet, we increasingly see our world through the prism of cost/benefit analysis and risk management. We seek to monetize all aspects of life; I recently saw a study that calculated the economic costs of office rudeness. We constantly ask, “Is it worth the cost?”

In recent years, NASA officials have begun to see that strident utilitarianism as an abiding threat to the future of space exploration. In 2007, Michael Griffin, then the NASA chief administrator, urged people to look beyond what he called “acceptable reasons” for recharging the U.S. space program, to embrace the “real,” “intuitive” reasons for going deeper into space.

“The cultural ethos in America today,” he said in a speech in Houston, “requires us to have ... reasons that pass analytical muster, that offer a favorable cost/benefit ratio that can be logically defended.”






The problem is that acceptable reasons alone—national security, economic benefit, scientific discovery—don’t fully explain why we should launch ourselves into space. Rather, the true justification for space exploration is that such enterprises “speak abundantly to our sense of human curiosity, of wonder and awe,” and because they “lift up human hearts everywhere when we do them.”

But perhaps the best reason to once again turn our eyes and our dreams toward space is that it helps defeat what Lewis Mumford called the “idols of utilitarianism.” We can’t do big things unless we think big. We can’t think big unless we allow our imaginations go beyond the mundane. There’s nothing less mundane than galaxies far, far away.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼81
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼77
Yap	Rain	▲86 ▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82 ▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼78
Kosrae	Rain	▲83 ▼77
Majuro	Rain	▲81 ▼78

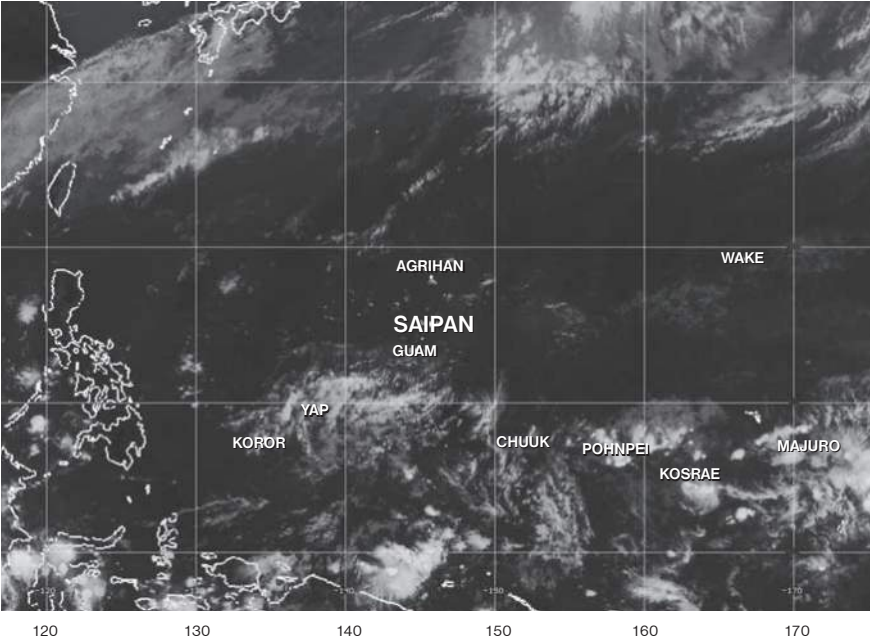
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲64 ▼59
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲85 ▼57
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲80 ▼77
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲83 ▼73
London	Showers	▲59 ▼47
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲65 ▼54
Manila	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼78
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲59 ▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼76
New York	Showers	▲64 ▼56
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲72 ▼56
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲62 ▼46
Pusan	Windy	▲69 ▼56
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲74 ▼55
Salem	Showers	▲59 ▼47
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲57 ▼51
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲69 ▼51
Tokyo	Sunny	▲73 ▼58
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲70 ▼60

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
4:22 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	
11:14 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet	
5:28 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet	
11:08 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 4N130E through two weak circulations centered southeast of Yap at 4N142E and southwest of Majuro at 5N169E then continues northeastward as a surface trough to beyond 180 at 7N. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the near-equatorial trough and first circulation south of Koror, Yap and Chuuk within 110 miles of a line from 1N135E to 5N136E to 8N140E to EQ157E. Similar conditions also exist near the second circulation and surface trough over Jaluit, Majuro and Mili atolls within 115 miles of a line from EQ170E to 7N171E to 5N180. Converging surface winds are producing scattered showers south and east of Wake Island within 85 miles of a line from 16N164E to 23N178e.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:49 AM	6:38 PM
Sunday	5:49 AM	6:38 PM
Monday	5:48 AM	6:39 PM
Tuesday	5:48 AM	6:39 PM
Wednesday	5:48 AM	6:39 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:22 PM	2:40 AM
Sunday	4:23 PM	3:26 AM
Monday	5:26 PM	4:16 AM
Tuesday	6:30 PM	5:09 AM
Wednesday	7:33 PM	6:06 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
 - Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

- For announcements:**
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
5K382	6:00pm	6:50pm	2, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily	C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6	MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/933	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM	C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:25am+1	3, 6 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6	OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
				C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; CZ: 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES			
CATHOLIC 			
Mt. Carmel Cathedral Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro Parish office hours: Monday-Saturday 8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm			
Korean Center Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm			
Kristo Rai Parish Sunday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm) Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated) Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm. Telephone no. 285-0273			
Santa Soledad Mission Parish Monday: 6pm Tuesday: 6pm Wednesday: 6pm Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass) Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass) Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am, Saturday: 4-6pm Telephone no. 256-4568			
Saint Jude Parish Monday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 7am Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm Office is close every Thursday and Saturday Telephone no. 288-0007			
San Antonio Parish Monday-Friday 6pm Saturday: 6pm Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children) Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm Close on Sunday and Monday			
San Francisco de Borja-Rota Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English Monday and Tuesday: 6am Chamorro Wednesday: 6pm English Thursday: 6am Chamorro Friday: 6am English Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog Sunday: anticipated mass			
San Isidro-Rota Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am Monday-Friday: 7pm Saturday: 5am and 7pm			
San Jose (Oleai) Parish Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm Thursday: day off Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm Telephone no. 234-6991 San Roque Parish Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English Monday: 6pm English Tuesday: 6pm English Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil Thursday: 6pm English			
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays) Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143			
San Vicente Parish Monday-Friday: 6pm, Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month) Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm Parish office hours: daily 9-11am Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131			
Santa Remedios Sunday: 8am Monday: 6pm (1 st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm) Tuesday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm			
PROTESTANT 			
Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm			
Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm Telephone no. 234-6026/27			
Chinese Christian Church of Saipan Worship Services: Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm Telephone no. 235-8540			
Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm As Perdido Road Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950 Tel. No. (670) 235-8590 Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org			
Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road, Call 285-6081 for directions			
Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service) GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week) Telephone no. 322-5680			
Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan Wednesday: 7:45pm (English) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog) Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)			
Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)			
Immanuel United Methodist Church Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral) Worship Service: 9:00am Children's Sunday School: 9:00am Choir Practice: 8:00am Singspiration: 8:30am Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158			
Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog) 9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage) (Korean Congregation) Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm Wednesday evening service: 8pm Daily morning prayer: 5am			
Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm, Wednesday: 7:30-9pm			
Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9:20am Sunday Adult: 11am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm			
Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)			
Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm			
Missions Connection Ministry Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm			
Northern Marianas Christian Church Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620			
Marianas Bible Fellowship Center Sunday School: 9-9:30am Divine Worship: 9:30-11am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm			
Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch) Sunday worship 8:30am Sunday evening 7:00pm Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel Telephone: 789-7566			
Saipan Christian Church Sunday: 7:30am-10am Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm			
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)			
Saipan Church of Christ Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 10-11am Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm Thursday Bible Study: 7pm			
Saipan Community Church (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm			
Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm			
First Baptist Church Koblerville Sunday services: Sunday school 9:00am Morning worship 10:00am Evening service 6:00pm Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm			
Chinese services Sunday morning 10:00am Sunday evening 7:00pm			
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. Telephone No: 285-4661/2			
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi			
Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism			
Upper Room International Ministries Sunday 5:30am-6:30am Morning prayer 7am-9am English service 7am-9am Sunday school 10am-12noon English service, Koblerville Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan			
Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship: 10:30am Sunday PM Worship: 7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S			
VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Formerly God's Victorious Army) Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246			

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Business

Facebook-Google rivalry intensifies with PR fiasco

NEW YORK (AP)—The intense rivalry between Facebook and Google just got juicier.

In a twist seemingly out of a Hollywood thriller, Facebook hired a prominent public relations firm to try to plant stories harshly criticizing Google’s privacy practices in leading news outlets. The efforts backfired when the firm approached a blogger who not only declined the assignment, but also went public with the offer.

The latest Silicon Valley drama has also evoked chatter of smear campaigns, secrecy and even Richard Nixon. It took the once-secret blogger known as Fake Steve Jobs to help sort it all out.

One lesson: If you’re going to write an incriminating email, don’t. Pick up the phone instead.

Here’s another: “If you are out there planting negative stories, you are feeding the conflict,” said Larry L. Smith, president of the Institute for Crisis Management, a public relations company. “When they get in a shoving match, whoever is perceived by the public to be the bully loses in the public eye.”

Rather than getting news outlets to circulate stories about privacy problems facing Google, Facebook found itself having to answer questions about why it wanted to maintain secrecy.

Facebook said it never authorized or intended to run any smear campaign against Google. Rather, the company said it hired Burson-Marsteller to prompt investigations into how a new Google service called Social Circle collects and uses data about people. In a statement, Facebook said it should have made it clear that it was behind the efforts.

Burson-Marsteller said Facebook had requested that its identity remain secret “on the grounds that it was merely asking to bring publicly available information to light.” The firm said that violated its own policies, “and the assignment on those terms should have been declined.”

Not that it was. Facebook’s efforts to stay anonymous—something that violates the terms of service for users of its site—began to unravel when Burson-Marsteller contacted blogger Christopher Soghoian, an Indiana University graduate student well known in online privacy and security circles.

The firm’s John Mercurio asked Soghoian if he wanted to write an item for “a top-tier media outlet” blasting Google for what Mercurio calls a “sweeping violation of user privacy.” Soghoian asked for the identity of the firm’s client, but Mercurio wouldn’t reveal it.

Soghoian then posted the email exchange online.

Burson-Marsteller, meanwhile, also pitched USA Today. Instead of running with the planted story, USA Today published an article on the “PR firm’s attack of Gmail privacy.”

It took Newsweek tech editor Dan Lyons to figure out that Burson-Marsteller’s mystery client was not Apple or Microsoft, as some murmurs went, but Facebook.

Lyons, incidentally, is the writer behind The Secret Diary of Steve Jobs, a sharp-witted blog pretending to be written by Apple’s CEO. Lyons used to go by Fake Steve Jobs, but The New York Times outed him in 2007. (The blog is on hiatus out of respect for Jobs, who is on medical leave.)

“The mess, seemingly worthy of a Nixon re-election campaign, is embarrassing for Facebook, which has struggled at times to brand itself as trustworthy. But even more so for Burson-Marsteller, a huge PR firm that has represented lots of blue-chip corporate clients in its 58-year history,” Lyons wrote in the Daily Beast, a website owned by the same company as Newsweek.

And so, people got a rare glimpse inside Facebook’s thorny relationship with Google in a story that seems more befitting to behind-the-scenes Washington politics or rival pizza joints than the sparring between two seemingly friendly tech giants.

It was also a good lesson on privacy in an age in which few things stay out of the public eye.

“Odds are that if you are writing about something controversial, or doing something controversial, someone is going to leak it,” said Smith, the crisis-management expert.

Google and Facebook are Silicon Valley neighbors with similar scrappy roots as startups.

Over the past few years, however, they have grown more competitive. Google is dominant in advertising that accompanies search results, but Facebook has the potential to draw ad dollars with its extensive knowledge of people’s interests and social circles. With little success, Google has urged Facebook to make its data more accessible to its search engine.

Facebook also has successfully lured scores of Google’s engineers and executives, a key reason Google gave its staff a 10 percent raise this year.

The PR fiasco was prompted by Google’s Social Circle, which is part of the company’s efforts to supplement search results with content from your Facebook, Twitter and other online connections.

Nation

Rising Mississippi takes aim at Cajun country

BUTTE LAROSE, La. (AP)—In the latest agonizing decision along the swollen Mississippi River, federal engineers are close to opening a massive spillway that would protect Baton Rouge and New Orleans but flood hundreds of thousands of acres in Louisiana Cajun country.

With that threat looming, some 25,000 people in an area known for small farms, fish camps, crawfish and a drawling French dialect are hurriedly packing their things and worrying that their homes and way of life might soon be drowned.

People in this riverfront community gathered at their volunteer fire station to hear a man dressed in Army fatigues deliver an ominous flood forecast.

Col. Ed Fleming leaned over a podium this week and warned that projections by the Army Corps of Engineers call for the station to be inundated by up to 15 feet of water. The crowd let out a collective gasp.

"From the ground?" an incredulous resident shouted at the meeting.

"From the ground," replied Fleming, head of the corps' New Orleans district.

A few skeptics in the audience scoffed at the projection, but many others were shaken. "It's over with,"

muttered Pierre Watermeyer. "That's it. There's no sense in pretending."

The corps could open the Morganza floodway north of Baton Rouge as early as this weekend, a move that would relieve pressure on the city's levee system.

Opening the spillway gates for the first time in 38 years will unleash the Mississippi on a wild ride south to the Gulf of Mexico through the Atchafalaya River and divert floodwater from the river into the basin's swamplands, backwater lakes and bayous. Several thousand homes would be at risk of flooding.

Even if engineers decide against opening the spillway, no one seems to doubt that a major flood is bound for Butte LaRose, Krotz Springs, the oil-and-seafood hub of Morgan City and other swampland communities in the Atchafalaya Basin.

The Morganza and the nearby Old River Control Structure were built in the 1950s to keep the Mississippi on its current course through New Orleans, one of the world's busiest ports. If the river rises much higher at New Orleans, the Coast Guard said Thursday that it would consider restrictions on shipping, including

potentially closing the channel to the largest, heaviest ships.

For the people of this region, floods from rain-swollen rivers and hurricanes are a familiar hazard. Floodwaters damaged or destroyed many homes and fishing camps in Butte LaRose in 1973, the last time the corps opened the Morganza spillway. Many residents had to wait several weeks before they could return.

Maxim Doucet was born that year. His parents stayed put, even when the floodwaters started lapping at the rear of their grocery store.

Doucet has no intention of leaving town, either. The water didn't seep into the store when the flood gauge hit 27 feet in 1973, so Doucet can't believe the center of town will be submerged in 15 feet of water if the latest forecast for 29 feet proves accurate.

While most of his neighbors were packing up, Doucet deployed a team of workers and heavy machinery to erect a 6-foot levee around his home on the banks of the Atchafalaya River. A dump truck hauled in roughly 1,000 cubic yards of clay for a bulldozer and front-end loader to fashion a protective ring around the rear of Doucet's three-story house.



River of trouble

The Mississippi River is surging toward near-record levels in its southern reaches.

Memphis, May 10
River crested at 47.8 ft. (14.6 m)

Predicted river crests
(As of 8 p.m. EDT May 10)

Date	Crest height	Flood stage
May 10	64.5 ft. (19.7 m)	48 ft. (14.6 m)
May 19	57.5 ft. (17.5 m)	43 ft. (13 m)
May 21	64 ft. (19.5 m)	48 ft. (14.6 m)
May 22	47.5 ft. (14.5 m)	35 ft. (10.6 m)
May 23	19.5 ft. (6 m)	17 ft.* (5.2 m)

* Levees protect New Orleans to the 20-ft. (6 m) stage

© 2011 MCT
Sources: U.S. National Weather Service, Reuters
Graphic: Ray Enslow, Los Angeles Times

How bin Laden emailed without being detected by US

WASHINGTON (AP)—Despite having no Internet access in his hideout, Osama bin Laden was a prolific email writer who built a painstaking system that kept him one step ahead of the U.S. government's best eavesdroppers.

His methods, described in new detail to The Associated Press by a counterterrorism official and a second person briefed on the U.S. investigation, served him well for years and frustrated Western efforts to trace him through cyberspace. The arrangement allowed bin Laden to stay in touch worldwide without leaving any digital fingerprints behind.

The people spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive intelligence analysis.

Bin Laden's system was built on discipline and trust. But it also left behind an extensive archive of email exchanges for the U.S. to scour. The trove of electronic records pulled out of his compound after he was killed last week is revealing thousands of messages and potentially hundreds of email addresses, the AP has learned.

Holed up in his walled compound in northeast Pakistan with no phone or Internet capabilities, bin Laden would type a message on his computer without an Internet connection, then save it using a thumb-sized flash drive. He then passed the flash drive



This image taken from video released by Qatar's Al-Jazeera television broadcast on Friday, Oct. 5, 2001, is said to show Osama bin Laden.

to a trusted courier, who would head for a distant Internet cafe.

At that location, the courier would plug the memory drive into a computer, copy bin Laden's message into an email and send it. Reversing the process, the courier would copy any incoming email to the flash drive and return to the compound, where bin Laden would read his messages offline.

It was a slow, toilsome process. And it was so meticulous that even veteran intelligence officials have

marveled at bin Laden's ability to maintain it for so long. The U.S. always suspected bin Laden was communicating through couriers but did not anticipate the breadth of his communications as revealed by the materials he left behind.

Navy SEALs hauled away roughly 100 flash memory drives after they killed bin Laden, and officials said they appear to archive the back-and-forth communication between bin Laden and his associates around the world.

Al-Qaida operatives are known to change email addresses, so it's unclear how many are still active since bin Laden's death. But the long list of electronic addresses and phone numbers in the emails is expected to touch off a flurry of national security letters and subpoenas to Internet service providers. The Justice Department is already coming off a year in which it significantly increased the number of national security letters, which allow the FBI to quickly demand information from companies and others without asking a judge to formally issue a subpoena.

Officials gave no indication that bin Laden was communicating with anyone inside the U.S., but terrorists have historically used U.S.-based Internet providers or free Internet-based email services.

2 men accused of plotting to bomb NYC synagogue

NEW YORK (AP)—A man who complained the world was treating Muslims "like dogs" plotted with an accomplice to kill Jews by bombing a synagogue, and possibly the Empire State building, and bought a grenade and guns for the attacks, authorities charged Thursday.

But there was no indication that what authorities called a homegrown plot, orchestrated as part of a sting operation, ever put New Yorkers in danger or that the men were affiliated with any terrorist organization.

The two suspects, 26-year-old Ahmed Ferhani, an Algerian, and 20-year-old Mohamed Mamdouh, a U.S. citizen of Moroccan descent accused of being his accomplice, were charged Thursday with conspiracy as a crime of terrorism under a rarely-used state law. Such cases are almost always handled by federal authorities.

Officials said the two men bought from an undercover officer an inert hand grenade and several weapons they intended to resell to help finance their plot to bomb a "major synagogue" in Manhattan.

Their attorneys said the two deny the charges.

"Mr. Ferhani tells me he hasn't committed any crime at all," lawyer Stephen Pokart said.

Mamdouh's attorney, Steven Fus-

feld, said that even under the prosecutors' version of the events, Mamdouh's involvement would have been less than Ferhani's and it wasn't right to treat them equally. "My client says he is not guilty of these crimes," Fusfeld said.

Officials said investigators had been using an undercover detective wearing a wire to track Ferhani for several months. Ferhani had been on their radar before but in October was arrested on a robbery charge in Manhattan. Officials said the detective heard Ferhani say he hated Jews and was fed up with the way Muslims—especially Palestinians—were treated around the world.

"They're treating us like dogs," Ferhani said once, according to police Commissioner Raymond Kelly.

According to a criminal complaint, Ferhani told the detective about "his intent to participate in jihad," meaning holy war, and that "he would become a martyr."

Eventually, authorities say, Ferhani brought Mamdouh in, but police did not say how the two knew each other. Officials also refused to give details on how the undercover officer met Ferhani.

But Ferhani started to show a pattern of growing anger over time, so much so that authorities decided to act, prosecutors said.

ACROSS THE NATION

2 Border Patrol agents killed in Arizona crash

GILA BEND, Ariz. (AP)—Two Border Patrol agents rushing to help capture some suspected illegal immigrants were killed Thursday when their SUV entered a marked railroad crossing and was struck by a freight

train. The crash happened at about 6 a.m. MST in a rural farming area near Interstate 8 and the town of Gila Bend, about 85 miles southwest of Phoenix. The agents—Eduardo Rojas Jr. and Hector Clark—were trying to position themselves on a road north of some other agents who were trying

to capture a group of suspected illegal immigrants, said agent Kenneth Quillin, spokesman for the Border Patrol's Yuma sector.

Official: 2 students among 3 dead at CA university

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—The hus-

band of a graduating business student at a Northern California university shot and killed her and a male classmate in a car in a campus parking garage then turned the gun on himself, officials said Thursday. Victims Marcory Caliguiran, 25, and Thomas Kyle Williams, 26, were honor students who were about

to graduate with accounting degrees from San Jose State University, school spokeswoman Pat Lopes Harris said. Police said they were sitting inside the car Tuesday night when Napoleon Caliguiran, 54, fired multiple shots from outside the vehicle owned by the married couple.

Asia

Police: 68 killed in bombings in NW Pakistan

SHABQADAR, Pakistan (AP)—Twin explosions struck a paramilitary training center in northwestern Pakistan on Friday, killing at least 68 people—nearly all recruits—in the bloodiest attack in the country since a U.S. raid killed al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden.

A suicide bomber detonated at least one of the blasts at the main gate of the facility for the Frontier Constabulary, a poorly equipped but front-line force in Pakistan's battle against al-Qaida and allied Islamist groups close to the Afghan border. Like other branches of Pakistan security forces, it has received U.S. funding.

The scene of the blast was littered with shards of glass mixed with blood and human flesh. The explosions destroyed at least 10 vans the recruits were boarding to go home for a short break at the end of a recent training session.

Dr. Abdul Hameed Afridi of Lady Rieding Hospital in Peshawar said 117 people have been treated at the hospital, including 40 with critical wounds.

About 3 to 4 pounds (6 to 8 kilograms) of explosives were used in one explosion, said po-

lice officer Jahanzeb Khan. Ball bearings and nails were used in another, heightening the death toll, he said.

A vegetable vendor at the site said some recruits were seated in white minivans and others were loading luggage atop the vehicles.

"There was a big blast," he said. "I saw smoke, blood and body pieces all around."

The attack was a savage reminder of the toll militant groups are taking on Pakistan even as it faces international suspicion that elements within its security forces may have been harboring bin Laden, who was killed in a raid about three hours' drive from Peshawar.

Police official Nisar Khan said a suicide bomber, a man in his late teens or early 20s, set off one blast. The cause of the other explosion was not yet known, he said.

"The first blast occurred in the middle of the road, and after that there was a huge blast that was more powerful than the first," said Abdul Wahid, a 25-year-old recruit whose legs were wounded in the blasts.

He said he was knocked to

the ground by the force of the explosions.

"After falling, I just started crawling and dragging myself to a safer place ... along the wall of a roadside shop," he said.

No group immediately claimed responsibility. But militants have pledged to avenge bin Laden's May 2 killing, and reprisal strikes on Pakistani territory had been expected.

The Sept. 11 mastermind and at least four others were killed by U.S. Navy SEALs who raided bin Laden's compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, a garrison city. Bin Laden is believed to have lived in the large house for up to six years.

Pakistani officials have denied knowing he was there but have criticized the American raid ordered by President Barack Obama as a violation of their country's sovereignty.

Pakistani leaders have also repeatedly pointed out that tens of thousands of their own citizens have died in suicide and other attacks since Sept. 11, 2001, when Islamabad became an ally of the U.S. in taking on Islamist extremists.

Accounts piece together bin Laden's fugitive trail

ISLAMABAD (AP)—For a man on the run, Osama bin Laden seemed to do very little running. Instead, he chose to spend long stretches—possibly years—in one place and often in the company of his family.

As details emerge of bin Laden's era as America's most-wanted man, it appears he was often going in one direction while the American-directed hunt was moving in another.

Pakistani authorities are pulling together a close-up view of bin Laden's final years from sources such as his three widows, including one who says she never left the upper floors of the walled compound in Abbottabad where bin Laden was killed. But a far more sweeping narrative has taken shape from reports of Guantanamo Bay interrogations posted by WikiLeaks in late April just before the American raid on bin Laden's compound.

These documents—in addi-

tion to interviews by The Associated Press—indicate bin Laden relied on Afghan allies for years after the Sept. 11 attacks and possibly spent relatively limited time in Pakistan's rugged tribal areas, which had been the much-discussed focus of U.S. intelligence and military resources in the manhunt.

It also suggests that bin Laden—either by design or chance—could have taken advantage of shortcomings in America's ability to gather timely leads on his movements or get credible sources within the patchwork of tribes and militia factions in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

In perhaps the most striking dead-end chase, U.S. officials and others strongly believed bin Laden slipped across the border in Pakistan after dodging capture from an assault on Tora Bora in eastern Afghanistan in November 2001. But he was still in Afghanistan and gallop-

ing away on horseback in the opposite direction toward the northeastern Kunar province, according to bin Laden's aide Awar Gul, who was arrested in December 2001 and eventually sent to Guantanamo.

But according to the documents released by WikiLeaks, Gul gave the information to interrogators from 2002 to 2006—apparently too late to produce any active leads.

It also was assumed bin Laden traveled light, accompanied by a few guards who were most likely Arabs. But it turns out he kept close to his family—or at least part of it—and his most-trusted courier was a Kuwaiti-born Pakistani who went by the nom de guerre Abu Ahmed al-Kuwaiti, according to U.S. documents and investigators. The discrepancies between the Western assumptions and the apparent details on bin Laden's movements go back to the Sept. 11 attacks.

by phone and Xinhua described ambulances and police streaming to the scene in the county seat of Tianzhu in Gansu province. Xinhua initially reported that dozens were killed or injured, though later reports described no deaths. It said some 60 people were injured, 19 of them seriously.

Japan sets up compensation plan for plant operator

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's government has agreed on a new plan to ensure the operator of

crippled Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant can meet the massive costs of compensating people affected by the crisis. Friday's plan involves establishing a fund financed by both public money and contributions from utilities that will provide financial support to Tokyo Electric Power Co. TEPCO expects to face a deluge of damage claims in the wake of worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl. The government will fund the scheme with special bonds, though it did not say the amount it expects to issue.

World

Pressure mounts on Gadhafi within Libya's capital

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Pressure is mounting on Moammar Gadhafi from within his stronghold in the Libyan capital, with increasing NATO airstrikes and worsening shortages of fuel and goods. An activist said Friday that there has also been a wave of anti-government protests in several Tripoli neighborhoods this week—dissent that in the past has been met with zero tolerance and brutal force.

Gadhafi's rebel opposition, meanwhile, received major political boosts from abroad. Britain promised to provide them with police gear, and the Obama administration invited a rebel delegation to the White House for talks on Friday.

Highlighting the pressure, the sound of two NATO strikes could be heard early Friday. It was not immediately clear what they targeted. They followed a round of NATO airstrikes early Thursday that hit Gadhafi's fortified compound



In this image made from Libyan TV, Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi holds a meeting with tribal leaders from eastern Libya, in Tripoli, Libya, Wednesday, May 11, 2011.

in Tripoli. Just hours beforehand, the Libyan leader had appeared on state TV for the first time since his son was killed nearly two weeks ago. Before his appearance, rumors swirled that he had been killed or injured.

Reporters were shown the airstrike damage by Libyan of-

ficials, including one who said Gadhafi and his family had moved away from the Bab al-Aziziya compound some time ago. One missile appeared to have targeted some sort of underground bunker at the compound—a sprawling complex of buildings surrounded by towering concrete blast walls.

Syrian soldiers take up positions before protests

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian soldiers rolled into flash point cities in tanks and set up sand barriers topped with machine guns Thursday, as President Bashar Assad's deadly crackdown on dissent pulled the country deeper into international isolation.

On the eve of another round of large protests, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton slammed the government's assault on demonstrators and said the violence showed Assad is weak, though she stopped short of saying he must quit.

"Treating one's own people in this way is in fact a sign of remarkable weakness," Clinton said during a trip to Greenland.

Assad, 45, is determined to

crush the two-month-old uprising despite international pressure and sanctions from Europe and the United States. His government has led one of the most brutal crackdowns in the wave of popular revolts sweeping the Arab world.

Protests organizers were calling for more demonstrations Friday despite military operations and arrest raids meant to pre-empt the rallies.

"Authorities are detaining any person who might demonstrate," Rami Abdul-Rahman, director of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, told The Associated Press.

In the northern city of Deir el-Zor, authorities placed cameras inside and outside the Osman bin

Afan mosque, where many worshippers have been demonstrating after Friday's Muslim prayer services, he said.

Abdul-Rahman added that many former detainees were forced to sign documents saying that they were not subjected to torture and that they will not take part in future "riots."

A Western diplomat said 2,000 people have been detained over the past two weeks, with a total of around 8,000 since the Syrian government launched its crackdown. The official, who demanded anonymity to share assessments of the situation in Syria, said Western nations believed that between 600 and 800 people have been killed so far.

WORLD BRIEFS

8 beheaded bodies found in northern Mexican state

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The bodies of eight decapitated men were dumped Thursday along roads in Durango, a drug-gang-plagued northern Mexican state already grappling with the horror of discovering mass graves where 196 corpses have been unearthed so far. Six of the naked bodies were found along a highway leading out of the state capital of Durango city, their heads lying nearby, according to a statement from the state attorney general's office. The two other bodies were found in another city street. One was identified as the remains of Gerardo Galindo Meza, the deputy director of a city prison who had been kidnapped Monday. Galindo's head was on a different street corner, accompanied by a threatening message signed by a drug

gang, the statement said.

Far-right protest in Athens turns violent

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Gangs of far-right youths attacked dark-skinned immigrants in central Athens and clashed with riot police Thursday, leaving at least 25 people injured, in a show of force by extremist groups. The attacks, which lasted several hours, occurred following a downtown protest against a deadly mugging that had happened earlier in the week. Several hundred youths, dressed in black and some wielding bats, were involved in the daytime attacks in an area where thousands of Asian and African immigrants live. Immigrants were chased through narrow streets of the city's Kato Patisia neighborhood and punched and kicked to the ground by

groups of attackers.

Witnesses: 2 killed, dozens hurt in Yemen protest

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Yemeni police trying to disperse thousands of anti-government protesters in two cities Thursday killed two and wounded at least 47, some by gunfire, according to witnesses. In one of the cities, protesters overran a government building. Gunmen fired at protesters in the central city of Bayda from the roof of a building belonging to the ruling party, killing two people and injuring seven, activist Ghazi al-Amiri said. Later, protesters set fire to the building. In the southern city of Taiz, police fired live ammunition and rubber bullets to disperse demonstrators there, injuring 40 people, said field doctor Sadeq al-Shujah.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Gasoline bomb explodes in China bank, hurts dozens

BEIJING (AP)—A gasoline bomb exploded inside a bank Friday in northwestern China, injuring dozens of people, some of whom jumped from a fourth-story window, state media reported. Employees of the Tianzhu County Rural Credit Cooperative Union were gathered for a meeting around 9 a.m. (0100 GMT) when someone ignited the gasoline bomb, the Xinhua News Agency said, citing witnesses. A witness reached

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, May 14, 2011

Filipino artist bags one of top prizes in art contest

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A tattoo artist on Saipan emerged as the only Filipino among the top winners in a recently concluded art competition.

Alfonso “Alpog” Elenzano Arao won \$500 after placing third in the two-dimensional category of the 2nd Annual CNMI Art Competition sponsored by Bridge Capital LLC.

Arao’s winning piece, titled “Serenade,” depicts a man playing a guitar and crooning to an island girl. The painting is an acrylic on canvass and measures 32 ½ x 44 ½.

Arao and other category winners were awarded in a ceremony held at Bridge Capital’s corporate headquarters in Garapan last May 7.

Arao, in an interview after the awarding, said it took him a month and a half to finish his winning artwork since he only worked on it once he was done with his job at Mega-vision El Drake Tattoo.

“It was my first time to join the contest. I’m happy I won. It made me proud because I was the only Filipino winning artist,” he told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Arao, his purpose for joining the annual art competition is “to gain exposure as an artist.”

A native of Quezon City, Arao’s artistic skills manifested at an early age, and he has competed and received awards in numerous art competitions in the

Philippines.

“Art is, and will always, be my passion,” said Arao who is also into sculpting.

Arao studied Fine Arts at the University of the East before he came to Saipan in 1996 to work alongside his uncle, Eduardo “Dragon Edong” Elenzano.

“After placing third in the contest, I believe I am more motivated more than ever to join next year’s competition,” he said.

Arao disclosed that since he already has an idea about his entry for next year, he plans to start working on his masterpiece as early as possible.

“I am just happy and thankful that I have the support of my family and friends,” he added.

Arao encouraged other Filipino artists on Saipan to showcase their natural talents and skills by joining art competitions and exhibits to gain the exposure that they rightfully deserve.

“Don’t be afraid to join these contests and you need to have courage and strength to do so,” said Arao. “More importantly, you have to be passionate about art so you can give it your best shot.”

Alfonso “Alpog” Elenzano Arao poses next to his winning painting, titled “Serenade,” after the awarding ceremony on May 7. Arao won \$500 after placing third in the 2nd Annual CNMI Art Competition sponsored by Bridge Capital LLC.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



Saipan Lions mark LEO Club Awareness Month



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Saipan Fil-American Lions Club, Saipan Marianas Lions Club, and the Saipan Unity Lions Club pose for a group photo during the Safe, Aware, Free, Empower or SAFE Jamboree at the Koblerville Youth Center and Basketball Court last April 30.

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Lions Club on Saipan observed April as its Leadership, Experience, Opportunity or LEO Club Awareness Month.

Region secretary Paul Madriaga said the LEO Club is the youth program of the Lions Club International. Members age 12 to 18 years are for the Alpha LEO and 19 to 30 years are for the Omega LEO.

“LEO Clubs provide youth vol-

unteer opportunities that inspire and support leadership in young people by giving them the chance to learn, grow and serve by participating in community service projects,” he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Madriaga said LEO activities include youth camp and exchange program.

In celebration of the LEO Club Awareness Month, the Saipan Fil-American Lions Club, the Saipan Marianas Lions Club, and the Saipan Unity Lions Club took part in the Safe, Aware,

Free, Empower or SAFE Jamboree at the Koblerville Youth Learning Center and Basketball Court last April 30.

Madriaga said the Lions Clubs set up a booth where they educated spectators about the LEO Club through fact sheets and a video presentation.

Fely Angel, LEO Club adviser from Guam, also gave the youth insights on the benefits they can get by joining the club during the SAFE Jamboree.

Madriaga said Guam Lions officers—District Governor Romy Angel,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lions Club members pose with the youth that visited their booth at the Koblerville Youth Center during the SAFE Jamboree last April 30.

District Governor-elect Rey Acierto, and Immediate Past District Governor Melen Ruiz—flew to Saipan to provide support to the Saipan Lions program.

“Saipan Unity, Saipan Marianas and Saipan Fil-Am Lions joined together to participate in this community event and, at the same time, propagate the Lions work,” he added.

Madriaga urged the public to become a member of the Lions Club to help the community and gain valuable skills, make an impact on people’s

lives both locally and internationally, learn to be a leader and lead a respected organization, network with business people in the community and around the world, and energize their lives and have fun.

For information, call Jess Delos Santos at 287-8880, Mario Mayuga at 285-1021, Tony Soriano at 287-7917, Arlene Hart at 285-4809, Ladyvir Canape at 483-2118, Ruth Torrecampo at 789-5689, Joe Digno at 287-4574, or Madriaga at 287-4501.

5 bin Laden-linked terrorists still in Mindanao, says PH military

By JULIE ALIPALA
INQUIRER MINDANAO

ZAMBOANGA CITY, Philippines—At least five foreigners with links to the slain terrorist leader Osama Bin Laden continue hiding in the southern Philippines, military officials said Thursday.

Vice Admiral Alexander Pama, commander of the Philippine Navy, said topping the list of foreign terrorists in Mindanao was U.S.-trained engineer Zulkifli Bin Hir alias Marwan, a Malaysian who reportedly trains the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan and Sulu in bomb-making techniques.

“The Armed Forces of the Philippines intensified its intelligence operation to locate these

terrorists,” Pama said during a visit here.

He said Bin Hir stayed in Tipo-tipo, Basilan, where he worked with Abu Sayyaf leader Khair Mundos, before moving to Sulu.

Pama said another foreign terrorist hiding in Mindanao was known only as Mauwiyah.

Brig. Gen. Eugenio Clemen, Philippine Marines vice commandant, said Mauwiyah, a Singaporean married to a Tausug, was last reported to be in Sulu.

“We gathered that he managed to blend in the community and the last report we got is that this terrorist is engaged in seaweed farming in Sulu,” Clemen said. “Our intelligence operatives are tracking his exact whereabouts but latest report in-

dicated he is still in Sulu.”

Lt. Col. Randolph Cabangbang, spokesman of the Western Mindanao Command, identified the three other foreign terror suspects as Indonesians Saad and Qayyim; and Amin Baco, a Malaysian.

“Their primary interest here is to train local contacts on bomb-making,” Cabangbang said. “Now there are reports they are highly mobile and trying to blend in the communities.”

Pama said Bin Laden’s death could trigger renewed activities by these suspected foreign terrorists.

Cabangbang said an intensified manhunt has been launched for the capture of the foreigners.

The southern Philippines has been suspected of hosting for-

eign terrorists since the early 1990s, but their presence was verified only with the arrest in January 2002 of Jemaah Islamiyah operative Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi, the alleged engineer of the 2000 Rizal Day bombing, Cabangbang said.

It was Al-Ghozi who provided rich information on JI activities in Mindanao. On July 14, 2003, he managed to escape

from jail and fled anew to Mindanao. He was killed by security forces in October that year in Pigkawayan, North Cotabato.

Like Al-Ghozi, Omar Patek, another Indonesian JI member hid in Mindanao, according to Cabangbang. Patek provided training to the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu and Basilan.

He was also reportedly responsible for providing bomb-

making expertise to the group of Basit Usman, who was blamed for a series of bomb attacks in Central Mindanao. Usman is being linked to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front although the rebel group has repeatedly denied any association with him.

Patek was eventually arrested last March in Abbottabad, Pakistan, the same place where Bin Laden was killed.

Philippine police clash with rebels, killing 5

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police clashed with communist rebels, killing five people and wounding three on the same day the insurgents fatally shot a security guard for an American-owned gold mining company, officials said Friday.

The renewed violence came three months after the New People’s Army rebels and the government reopened intermittent talks to resolve one of Asia’s longest-running Marxist rebellions. But they have repeatedly failed to agreed on a truce.

In a first attack Thursday, about 60 guerrillas flagged down four motorcycle-riding security guards on a remote mining road in the southern

Philippines and seized their assault rifles and radios, police chief Aaron Aquino of Compostela Valley province said.

Aquino said one of the guards working for Russell Mining & Minerals Inc. apparently resisted and was fatally shot.

Private security guards are not authorized to carry assault rifles, and police have repeatedly warned that such weapons attract rebels, Aquino said.

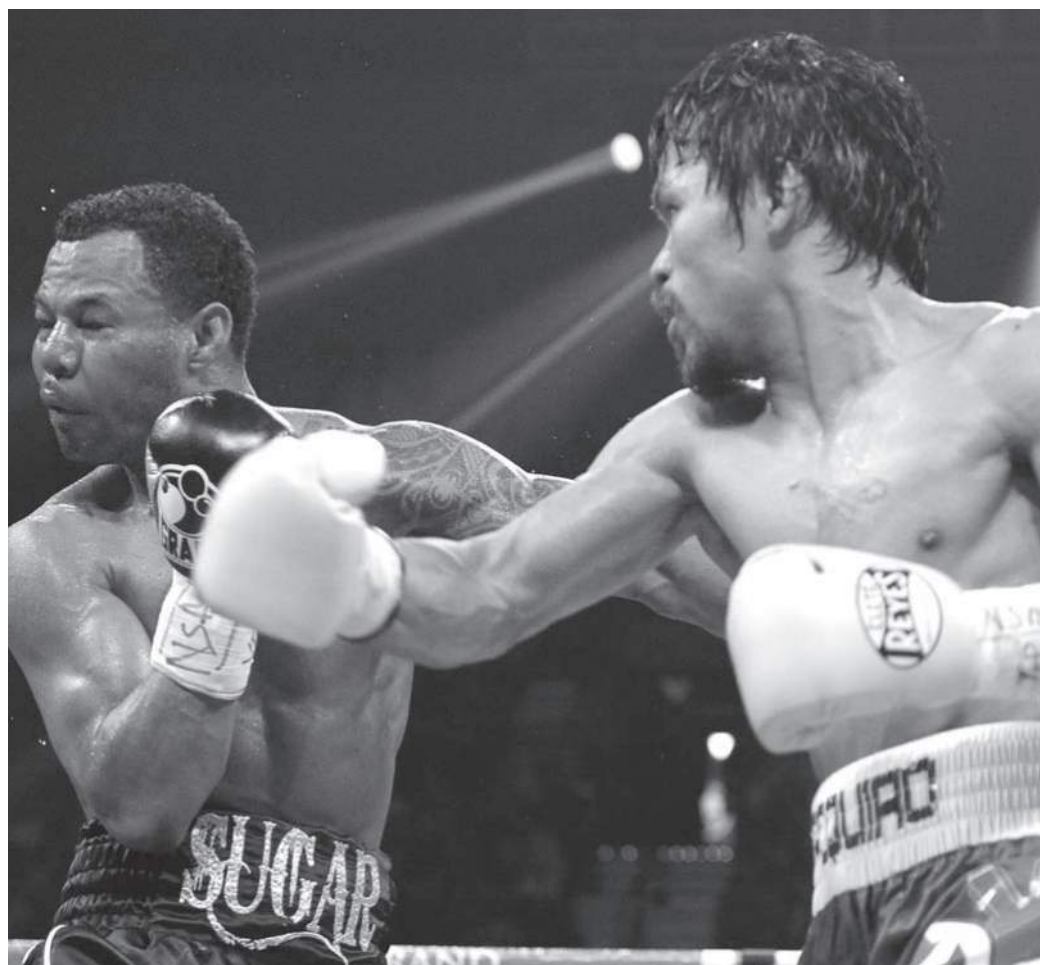
In a separate clash in northern Cagayan province, police said they engaged the rebels in a gunfight for almost two hours, killing five and wounding three insurgents. Another one was captured while two officers were wounded, police said.

The rebels have warned that they will launch fresh attacks against mining and logging companies, accusing them of taking land from peasants and indigenous people.

The New People’s Army have fought for a Marxist state for decades and are listed as a terrorist organization by the U.S. and EU governments. The military estimates their strength at several thousand fighters.

The instability has stunted economic development in rural areas. The rebels have survived by raiding remote police and army posts to snatch weapons and extorting money from businesses in areas where they operate.

Marquez accepts offer for Pacquiao rematch



Manny Pacquiao lands a punch against Shane Mosley in the ninth round during a WBO welterweight title bout, Saturday, May 7, 2011, in Las Vegas. AP

HOLLYWOOD—Mexican great Juan Manuel Marquez has accepted the offer of Top Rank to fight pound-for-pound king Manny Pacquiao on Nov. 12 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

And, chances are, Golden Boy Promotions, which has a lock on him, won’t match the offer.

“He [Marquez] accepted the offer and he had his lawyer sent it to GBP Monday night,” Top Rank chief honcho Bob Arum told Filipino sportswriters over the phone Tuesday.

Arum said that GBP has to match the offer, otherwise, it loses its hold on Marquez, who has been chasing a third fight with Pacquiao for three years now.

In their first meeting in 2004, Pacquiao knocked down Marquez three times in the first round, but had to settle for a draw after a judge scored the round wrongly.

They tangled again in 2008, with Pacquiao knocking down Marquez in the third round en route to a split decision victory.

According to Arum, if GBP fails to match the offer, a formal contract will be sent to Marquez and the fight will be formally announced.

Marquez did some revisions on Top Rank’s original proposal, including the catch weight that was set at 144 lb.

Pacquiao’s adviser, Mike Koncz, had stated earlier that Team Pacquiao is intent on a 145-lb catch weight. (*Inquirer.net*)

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Aquino richer by P4M; Binay P.6M poorer

MANILA, Philippines—President Benigno Aquino III is worth nearly P55 million and is P4.8 million richer since becoming Chief Executive last year, according to his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth for 2010. Still, Vice President Jejomar Binay is a few million pesos richer than Aquino. Binay is worth P58.1 million, based on his 2010 SALN. The President’s motor vehicles are among his personal and other properties which amount to P33.16 million. He has only one liability—his tax payables to the Bureau of Internal Revenue placed at P228,961. These put his net worth at P54.99 million, up P4.80 million from P50.19 million when he assumed office on June 30 last year. (*PDI*)

Philippine customs agents seize endangered turtles

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine customs officials say they have seized more than 100 endangered green sea turtles intended to be smuggled to other countries. Deputy customs commissioner Horacio Suansing says the dead turtles were found along with rare black coral in two containers shipped from southern Cotabato city. The contraband, valued at half a million dollars, was seized Wednesday following a tip. Green turtles grow as long as 5 feet (150 centimeters) and weigh as much as 290 pounds (130 kilograms). They are endangered because of overharvesting of both eggs and adults. Suansing says the illegal trade is fueled by demand from collectors and the curio trade. He says the shipper will face charges of violating laws forbidding collection and sale of sea turtles and corals.

Filipinos warned against fake job offers for Macau

MANILA, Philippines—The Department of Foreign Affairs has warned overseas Filipino workers against illegal recruiters trying to hoodwink victims by saying they represent a new hotel in Macau. The Philippine Consulate General in Macau received a letter from Galaxy Entertainment Group, the operator of a large new hotel in Macau, saying that there have been cases of fraud involving recruitment of workers by individuals claiming to be appointed agents of the entertainment group. Galaxy reported that some illegal recruiters, using the company’s name, entice Filipinos with a promise of a good job in the hotel. The company said it has never appointed any other agent, other than IKON Solutions Asia, Inc., to recruit staff in the Philippines. The DFA strongly advised the public to first verify job offers overseas with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration. (*INQUIRER.net*)

DFA seeks lifting of US travel warning on PH

MANILA, Philippines—The Department of Foreign Affairs has again asked the United States to lift its travel warning on the Philippines, citing “improved security conditions in the country.” The US travel advisory was issued last Nov. 2 and the DFA is hoping it could now be lifted, said Assistant Foreign Secretary Eduardo Malaya, the DFA spokesperson. Rebecca Thompson, the spokesperson of the US Embassy in Manila, said Washington’s standing travel warning on the Philippines “remains in effect for now” until it is updated. Thompson earlier explained that the US travel advisory is “typically updated routinely approximately every six months.”

IMMIGRATION LAW

**Bruce L. Mailman
Maya B. Kara**

Available services include

- U.S. Permanent Residence (Green Card)
- U.S. Naturalization/Citizenship
- Employment Based U.S. Visas (H1B, H2B, L1, EB1, E1, E2, and others)
- Status Clarification

**Call for Appointment
(670) 233-0081**

Law Offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC
Corner of Beach Road and Cpl.
Derence Jack R., Garapan, Saipan

Using every trick in the book to work abroad

MANILA, Philippines—Six women dressed as nuns stood anxiously in a queue at the chaotic Ninoy Aquino International Airport, unaware their shoes were about to end their dreams of an illegal job abroad.

At the immigration counter, an official looked up after stamping a genuine traveler's passport and surveyed the women.

"People were wondering, if they were nuns then why was one nun in rubber shoes and another in red shoes," said airport immigration chief Lina Andaman Pelia.

"And all six just had one bag. You could tell they weren't real." Under questioning, the "nuns" admitted they were not heading to a religious seminar in Hong Kong as claimed, rather to Lebanon to work illegally as maids.

And so—just like thousands of desperate Filipinos before them who have tried to use a dizzying array of tricks in an effort to head overseas for a higher paying job—their journey was over before it had begun.

Deep poverty has for decades driven Filipinos abroad and about nine million—or 10 percent of the population—currently work legally and illegally in a wide range of jobs overseas, according to government data.

While the government allows its citizens to work overseas, it requires them to have guaranteed labor contracts and to register with state-approved recruiters.

The government says these measures are needed because Filipinos who go abroad can easily be exploited in many ways and, at worst, be forced into crime or prostitution.

Sometimes the country they want to work in has been black-listed completely, such as was the case with the fake nuns, with the Philippines banning people from working in Lebanon in 2007 due to security and labor concerns there.

But many Filipinos seek to circumvent these rules, with illegal recruiters often setting up the scams.

"We have economic prob-

lems in this country and sad to say, they become willing victims," Pelia said, referring to the Filipinos who sneak overseas to work illegally.

Pelia said many prospective illegal workers simply presented themselves at airports as tourists, and it was up to the immigration officials to determine their real motive for travelling overseas.

At the immigration desk, staff look for signs to distinguish the illegal workers from legitimate tourists.

Pelia said the give-away could be a bare passport indicating the person had not travelled abroad before, or a plan to "holiday" in areas of the Middle East not normally known to attract Filipino tourists.

She said illegal workers were sometimes caught out by being unable to answer the simplest of questions, such as: "Where are you going?" or: "Who is providing for your tour?" But on other occasions, they put more thought into their ruse.

Pelia said the government

now coordinated with sports bodies to verify which athletes were heading overseas, after some workers made it to Japan by claiming to be volleyballers bound for an Asian Games there in the 1990s.

Immigration officials are also constantly on the lookout for Filipinas seeking to head abroad for work as prostitutes who travel with fake boyfriends, Pelia said.

"Carlos", a 35-year-old laborer, said he beat the system three years ago when he entered Japan to escort his mother on a vacation there.

When his mother returned home two months later, Carlos did not come back.

Instead, under a plan hatched by his family, he was sheltered by his sister, who already had permanent residency in Japan.

"We were always terrified that Japanese immigration would track me down to her house and burst in at any time. But they never came," said Carlos, who spoke to AFP by telephone on condition his real name was not used.

Carlos said his sister helped him find a job as a construction worker in Japan, and he now earns the equivalent of about P26,000 (\$600) a month, three times what he could earn at home.

The problem of Filipinos being exploited saw the US State Department place the Philippines on its "tier 2 watchlist" for human trafficking in 2009.

This meant the US government believed the Philippines was failing to comply with "minimum standards" on stopping human traffickers.

The government says it has since sought to tackle the problem more seriously.

About 25,000 would-be illegal workers have been stopped from leaving the Philippines since a crackdown began in

August last year, according to Chrissy Avila, a lawyer with the government's anti-trafficking task force.

And 28 traffickers have been convicted since the start of last year, with some of them being sentenced to life in jail, according to the task force.

But Avila said the prospective workers, who are not punished if caught, often remain determined to try again because of the deep social problems and poverty at home.

"What they have in mind is that they are going abroad to have a better future, to earn dollars. They don't mind the fact that they might be victims of illegal trafficking," she said. (*Philippine Daily Inquirer, Agence France-Presse*)

500 illegal OFWs in Middle East cleared for repatriation

By JERRY E. ESPLANADA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Saudi Arabian authorities have cleared for repatriation another 500 undocumented overseas Filipino workers in the Middle East, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The Philippine consulate in Jeddah has made arrangements for their trip to Manila, said the DFA.

"Flight bookings have been made for the repatriates. They are expected to be back home in the coming weeks," said Foreign Assistant Secretary J. Eduardo Malaya, also DFA spokesman.

In February, the DFA repatriated some 420 Filipinos in distress, including 98 children, in Saudi Arabia.

In 2009 and 2010, the agency brought home 815 and 1,429 OFWs and their dependents, respectively.

The Filipino repatriates are currently housed at the Saudi Deportation Center in the western Saudi city, said Malaya, also ambassador-designate to Malaysia.

The consulate is currently working on the repatriation papers of an undisclosed number of troubled OFWs, who are currently staying at the mission-operated Hajj Terminal, he also said.

OFWs who avail of the Philippine government's voluntary repatriation program are brought to the facility while awaiting for the processing of their exit papers and provision of their plane tickets.

"Those Filipinos seeking deportation and who can provide their own plane tickets are also being assisted by the consulate and Saudi immigration authorities. However, there are no guarantees if they will be given priority in the deportation proceedings," said Malaya.

He explained that "on the average, Saudi authorities process only 100 Filipino deportees at a time since there are other nationalities who are also seeking deportation."

"There are also constraints in securing airline tickets. During peak seasons, most airlines accept only 50 deportees per flight," Malaya added.



SHIP AGROUND

In this aerial photo provided by the Sarangani Information Office, the Panamanian-registered ship *MV Double Prosperity* remains stuck at Bakud Reef Thursday, May 12, 2011 after running aground Sunday, May 8 more than 2 miles (4 kilometers) off Sarangani province in southern Philippines. Officials say the ship, loaded with coal, has run aground and destroyed a large portion of a marine sanctuary in Sarangani Bay.

PERSONAL FINANCE

Is investing in a condo unit a good idea?

By RANDELL TIONGSON
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

QUESTION: Is a condo unit a good investment?—Mia Eugenio Martinez via Facebook

Answer: It depends. If you ask real estate brokers, they will tell you that investing in condominium units is the greatest thing since sliced bread. However, many investment experts seem unimpressed with returns from condominium investments and for a good reason.

The bigger question to ask is why are you considering purchasing a condominium unit? Is your purpose purely for capital gain or do you intend to live

in that condo? I always say that when we select our investment options, we need to take a closer look at our investment objective, risk tolerance and time frame.

In this case, are you already certain as to the three I mentioned?

Assuming that you already have those questions answered, is investing in a condo a good idea then? The question is rather difficult to answer with utmost objectivity.

Firstly, it is difficult to ascertain the actual rate of return for condominiums. It can be very good for some projects and very dismal for others. Location and developer play a big role in de-

termining the growth rate for condos, but these do not guarantee high returns. There are very good developers who develop condominium units that do not appreciate as much as expected. However, there are some developments that register substantial growth in just a few years.

Condo units are real estate and are an asset class. Real estate remains one of the most preferred investments of Filipinos. It will always be a good part of your investment portfolio because it gives the investor peace of mind and it is a simplified asset preservation tool.

When properly selected and the purchase is done in a pru-

dent manner as to cost, condo units like other real estate properties can provide asset appreciation while income at the same time—like having your cake and eating it, too. Quid pro quo: capital appreciation and rental income potential will largely depend on purchase price, quality of the property, location and maintenance of the building.

Some factors regarding condo investing (or real estate investing) should always be considered especially in cost assumptions like real estate taxes, association dues and capital gains taxes. Such costs can be substantial and can largely dilute the appreciation of the property.

Further, a condominium unit is not always easy to sell, so be

prepared to lower selling price if you are in a rush to liquidate your asset—or wait until there is a buyer, which can take many months, even years.

Reading my answer probably made you more confused right? Well, there are no perfect answers to questions like "best investment," as money issues are always relative. Investing in a condo can be part of your asset class in your diversified portfolio.

As to a condo appreciating in value, well, only time can tell. In the end, you will make many investments and the returns will vary—some might even cause you to lose money but hey, that's life.

Buying the condo unit on credit will make the scenario

very different as you now have to contend with interest that can actually dilute your investment.

I hope my answer helped instead of confused you. Always remember to be prudent and don't forget to diversify. No investment is perfect, better have many options.

"But divide your investments among many places, for you do not know what risks might lie ahead."—Ecclesiastes 11:2 (NLT).

Randell Tiongson, RFP, is an advocate of Life & Personal Finance. He is a director of the Registered Financial Planner Institute Phils. To know more about RFP program, visit www.rfp.ph or e-mail info@rfp.ph.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Angel's A-okay with the men in her life—on and off the set

Angel Locsin

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Angel Locsin declared oh-so-boldly on national television that she's "happy" with the way things are between her and Fil-British soccer player Phil Younghusband.

Manager Ethel Ramos pointed out that Angel's so busy with work, she doubts if the actress has time to meet often with the attractive Azkal.

It's all about time management, it seems.

Angel is having a blast, too, with the other men in her life—particularly co-workers Aga Muhlach (in Star Cinema's "In the Name of Love") and John Lloyd Cruz (in the ABS-CBN series "Immortal").

Big kid

"Kuya Aga is like a big kid," Angel noted. "He's always excited to be on the set. [But] he's smart and makes sense. I can always run to him... when I have problems. He's cool and always calm. Even though we are all panicking, he remains relaxed."

They recently got to bond when they shot some key scenes in Japan.

"It was very difficult, to be honest. We had only about two hours of sleep a day and we were there for six days," Angel related. "Kuya Aga said he wasn't used to that kind of schedule, but he caught up."

They're both glad that they visited Japan before the historic triple-disaster. "We managed to shoot beautiful scenes and visit our kababayan there," Angel recalled.

She had to study different types of ballroom dances to play her film role, the actress said.

Best actor

For the small screen, she's enjoying herself with "Immortal" partner John Lloyd as well. "I waited so long to do a project with John Lloyd," she admitted. "I can say he's the best actor of our generation."

She has learned a lot with John Lloyd, she said: "Professionalism, patience, perseverance and dedication."

ABS-CBN star
Kim Chiu

Fairly legal

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—ABS-CBN star Kim Chiu celebrated her 21st birthday on April 19 in high style in New York City.

(Star Magic talents went on a summer concert tour in the United States last month.)

"Celebrations lasted for an entire week," she recalled. "Every time my friends Maja [Salvador], Angelica [Panganiban] and I would eat in a restaurant, the waiters would bring out a cake and sing 'Happy Birthday.'"

One night, Piolo Pascual treated Kim to a party at Butter in the East Village, Manhattan. Kapamilya stars KC Concepcion, Sam Milby and Maja were also there to fete Kim. "It was my first time to enter a bar. It was so sosyal. Girls are required to wear high heels."

Adrenaline rush

In Santa Barbara, California, Kim tried skydiving. "It was an adrenaline rush. When Mr. M [Star Magic head Johnny Manahan] saw the

picture, he told me: 'Good thing you didn't ask permission because I wouldn't have allowed you.'"

In Los Angeles, she also went star-gazing: "Maja, Angelica and I bumped into Ben Affleck. I got an autograph. He was friendly."

She likewise had a pictorial with Matt Lanter, star of "90210" with the Hollywood sign as backdrop.

Back in the country, she gathered her friends yet again, for another party in her new Quezon City home.

"Every morning when I wake up, I shed tears of joy because I was able to build my own house at such a young age," she said. "It inspires me to work harder."

Kim capped the celebrations with a visit to Grace to Be Born, a halfway house for unwed mothers and abandoned babies, last week.

Turning 21 has changed her irrevocably.

For her upcoming soap "Binondo Girl," she'd be sporting a more daring and action-packed image, she promised.

'Blusang Itim' to transform afternoons

GMA 7 depicts how physical appearance—beautiful or not—could never hinder a person's destiny through the TV adaptation of Elena Patron's "Blusang Itim."

Kylie Padilla takes on her first lead role as she portrays the character originally played by Snooky Serna in the 1980's movie. After being seen in "Dwarfina" and "Tween Hearts," Binoe's daughter now faces her biggest challenge to date: giving new life to Jessa, the lead character of "Blusang Itim."

This afternoon drama gives an account of a tragic story behind Jessa's disfigured face and how she dreams of being accepted and of making it in the fashion industry as a designer.

Joining Kylie in the series are the young and promising Frank Magalona, Carl Guevarra and Winwyn Marquez.

Jessa grew up longing to be loved by her mother, Esmeralda (Jackielou Blanco). What she does not know is that Esmeralda caused all her misfortune in life, even her ugliness.

While Rhea (Rita Avila), Jessa's real mother, was pregnant, Esmeralda devised a scheme to cause her to miscarry. The latter could not accept that Gerald (Gary Estrada) chose Rhea over her although she claimed to be pregnant with his child as well.

Esmeralda may not have succeeded in killing the offspring of the couple but she managed to make their life somewhat miserable and filled with lies.

All her life, Jessa desires to be accepted by people in spite of her physical appearance. She also yearns to be with a man who would not judge her by her looks but who will love her for the beauty of her heart. All these seemed impossible until her act of kindness leads her to the magical "blusang itim." The blusa does not only make her face

Kylie Padilla



beautiful, but also changes her life, in ways she could not have imagined before.

Completing the cast are Maritoni Fernandez, Marissa Delgado, Maureen Mauricio, Bodie Cruz, Chariz Solomon and Andrea Torres.

"Blusang Itim" is directed by Jay Altarejos and airs everyday starting May 16 after "Eat! Bulaga" on GMA 7.

"Blusang Itim" can also be seen worldwide beginning May 18 on GMA Pinoy TV. (*Malaya*)

Aljur is really just a friend, says Kylie

By MARINEL CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—"It seems that people want to hear us say there's something going on between us," said Kylie Padilla, when asked about the real score between her and heart-throb Aljur Abrenica. "Sad to say, we're just friends."

According to the 18-year-old daughter of action star Robin Padilla, the rumor linking her to Aljur started in February when the actor attended her 18th birthday celebration.

"Aljur was then very much in the spotlight with 'Machete,'" Kylie told writers at the press conference for her new GMA 7 series "Blusang Itim."

"He isn't courting me," Kylie insisted. She claimed she hasn't seen Aljur for some time, especially now that the actor is busy working on the film "Joey Gosiengfiao's Temptation Island."

Shortly after the press con, Inquirer Entertainment spotted Aljur at the GMA 7 lobby and asked him if he was waiting for Kylie. He smiled and said in



Aljur Abrenica

Filipino: "I'm neither confirming nor denying anything."

'Refreshing take'

Four other actresses—Sarah Labhati, Gwen Zamora, Andrea Torres and Isabelle Daza—auditioned for the role of Jessica in "Blusang Itim," said director Jay Altarejos. Kylie's "refreshing take," he said, gave her advantage.

"She's very intense. I hope I'm right... I see in her a young Chin Chin Gutierrez. They even look similar in some angles," said Altarejos.

Originally a komiks novel

written by Elena Patron, "Blusang Itim" is the TV adaptation of the 1988 hit film that featured Snooky Serna and Richard Gomez. It's about an unattractive woman who turns beautiful when she wears a blouse with magical powers.

The TV series also features Frank Magalona as Angelo, Winwyn Marquez, as Vicky, Carl Guevarra as Melchor and Andrea as Allyson.

Frank, 23, one of seven children of FrancisM, said he decided to put off joining show business until he graduated from Fine Arts at the University of the Philippines Diliman. "I realized that acting is really not far from what I did in college—painting, sculpting. It's another form of artistic expression," he explained.

He said yes when his mother Pia asked if he wanted to go to an audition.

Frank added: "If my dad was alive, I'm sure he'd be happy to see me pursuing something I really want. He had wanted for me to be a sound engineer—I used to help him with his music—but I find it too technical."

Maharlika – Opinyon

Postscript to heroes

Late last week, before Manny Pacquiao demolished all other news along with Shane Mosley, the government urged the Muslim community in this country not to turn Osama bin Laden into a hero. That was after a group of them tried to stage a rally in front of the US Embassy condemning his killing.

Bin Laden is not a hero, said presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda. “His terrorism affects our country as well and the entire globe. We request our Muslim brothers to look at the consequences of terrorism and not just at the fact that Osama is a Muslim.” He said bin Laden had committed terrorist acts against America and America had every right to punish him for those acts.

In fairness, the Muslims in Quiapo did not exactly call bin Laden a hero, they called him a martyr, though arguably the line between those two is pretty thin. What had incensed them, which was what they were protesting, were the brutality of his killing and his burial at sea. The latter was a particularly sticky point, burial at sea for a Muslim other than in the direst circumstances such as a sinking ship transgressing Islamic law. Therefore, the Muslims said, the Americans desecrated bin Laden’s body.

The Muslims did extol bin Laden during their service for him. Although many Muslims did not agree with his methods, spiritual leader Alim Jamil Yahya said, they all revered him for fighting for freedom.

I agree with the government’s caution but find it inadequate. The problem is really a complex one and reducing it to black and white doesn’t do anyone a service.

At the very least, one person’s hero is bound to be another per-

son’s heel, and vice versa. It’s tempting in this respect to compare bin Laden with Che Guevara. Guevara too was a monster in American eyes. He shared one thing with bin Laden that made him exceptionally so. He directly threatened America. Bin Laden did so by razing the Twin Towers and threatening to commit more mayhem in the American heartland. Guevara did so by helping to liberate Cuba and threatening to turn America’s backdoor, the subcontinent down south, communist. Guevara was an exponent of world revolution, a thing he tried to start with Latin America.

He was captured alive in Bolivia, but was executed shortly afterward. Legend says he raised a fist and spat at his executioners as they shot him to death, an act, testified to by witnesses, which cemented his claim to fame. In death, Guevara did more to fan the flames of revolution than he did in life (he was a poor organizer apparently, alienating allies in Bolivia, but that’s another story). Yet another proof of the immense power of martyrdom.

I do not know how bin Laden will fare in future. Guevara took on mythic proportions almost immediately after his death. I suspect bin Laden won’t follow suit, even in the longer term, and not just for reasons that owe to his demonization by Washington. Those reasons owe more obdurately to a world still able to distinguish between terrorism and revolution. Methods do count for something. The means do matter in the end. It is one thing to exhort, or cajole, or even coerce a people to overthrow their government, and even commit mayhem in the heat of battle or the pit of war, it is another to raze a building in another country, whether that is America or not.

Telling people, Muslims or not, not to turn bin Laden into a hero is perfectly justified, but it carries with it a lot of nuances. The Muslims can always turn Lacierda’s statement around and say, “We ask you as well to look at the consequences of state terrorism and not just at the fact that you are proto-American.”

The demonization of bin Laden doesn’t just carry with it a condemnation of terrorism, it carries with it a not very subtle justification of

American aggression. Not least the invasion of Iraq, which is passed off as part of the all-encompassing and all-exonerating, “war against terror.” Of course that action had the approval of Congress and the endorsement of the American people. That doesn’t make it better; that makes it worse. That only makes the American Congress just as indictable as the ones who deliberately lied about the weapons of mass destruction to whip up popular support, or indeed hysteria, for the invasion. Not least for cowardice in the face of jingoistic support for it, and opting to go along rather than defend the institutions of democracy as the Founding Fathers saw it.

True enough, none of this calls for turning bin Laden into a hero. Whatever cause you are fighting for, whatever flag you are waving, whatever good you are advancing, killing innocents does not make for heroism. But all of this calls for indicting as well the American officials who wreaked, and continue to wreak, terror upon the world. Yes, terror. The obliteration of the innocents, particularly children, by smart bombs is no less terroristic because their faces, unlike those who died in 9/11, have never been seen,

their names never been uttered, their memories never been kept other than by their loves ones. Nor may the absence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq be blithely excused by saying, “Ay, mali,” it was an honest mistake, because if it was a mistake at all, it was a most dishonest one. The people who mounted that knew there weren’t any.

By all means urge Muslims, local and foreign, to remember what bin Laden did to the Twin Towers of New York and refrain from trumpeting his virtues. But by the same token, urge the world as well to remember what George W. Bush and his gang have done to the world and refrain from extolling their cause. The second are no more heroes than the first. The second are no less criminals than the first.

They should be thankful they are not being hunted down like one.

EDITORIAL

Vacuumed justice

© 2011, Philippine Daily Inquirer

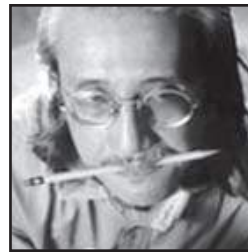
The Sandiganbayan’s May 9 resolution upholding the controversial plea bargain agreement that ex-military comptroller Carlos F. Garcia entered into with then Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez is a model of judicial obtuseness. In both the language and the reasoning they used, the judges in the majority were so determined to willfully ignore the greater context and the higher purposes of the law that they ended up burrowing their head in the sand—and looking stupid.

Essentially, the resolution in the Garcia case centered on Garcia’s compliance with the terms of the plea bargain agreement. In fact, there are several reasons why the plea bargain should not have been approved, and why the Sandiganbayan should reconsider its ruling. Compliance with the terms of the agreement cannot be the primary consideration, when the agreement is itself the issue at stake. The protection of the government cannot be understood in the narrowest terms of securing property and other assets; the highest purpose of the anti-graft court is to punish grafters and prevent corruption. How can a plea bargain that allows a military official with hundreds of millions in unexplained wealth to keep half of it serve as both punishment and preventive measure?

Above all, in ignoring the greater context, the anti-graft court succeeded in making itself an accomplice of the corrupt. From the unusual circumstances of the plea bargain (struck only after an uncooperative special prosecutor retired), to the smoking-gun confession of Garcia’s wife Clarita, to the revelations disclosed in hearings at the Senate and the House of Representatives (including evidence from the Anti-Money Laundering Council showing that Garcia’s wealth may have reached over P700 million), to the obvious discrepancy between Garcia’s official income and his unexplained riches, there was an entire range of old and new evidence that the anti-graft court could have taken notice of, but chose not to see. President Aquino was only right to ask whether the judges lived in a vacuum.

One gauge of the resolution’s strained reasoning is when it reiterated the court’s earlier ruling that there was no need for the AFP to give its consent to the plea bargain, in part because “the blatant allegations in the information fail to indicate that the amount mentioned therein was purportedly taken from the AFP, as in fact none from the said agency was listed therein as a witness.” This is plainly ridiculous; the facts of the case show that much of the money involved came from suppliers’ bribes. But while the funds did not necessarily come from the AFP, the bribes were made precisely because, at the time, Garcia was the AFP’s comptroller. In other words, the abuse happened as a direct result of the office Garcia held; if we want the AFP to reform itself, surely it must have a say on how an officer who abused his office must be meted justice.

A once-secret plea bargain that allows Garcia to pocket over a hundred million pesos is many things, but it isn’t justice.



There’s The Rub

By CONRADO DE QUIROS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Josephine Bracken: woman with a past

While most people are forgotten as soon as they are planted six feet under, Josephine Bracken remains controversial 119 years after she died of “milliary tuberculosis and ulceration of the breast.” The latest addition to Bracken literature is *Romance and Revolution*, a hefty volume by Luis Lisa and Javier de Pedro that presents an analysis of available sources. Some authors believe Rizal and Josephine were married in Fort Santiago before he walked to his execution, while others insist otherwise. Whatever your position on the matter, this book is a good start for further study.

I wish to share from my notes this sour interview given by Josephine’s stepfather from *The China Mail* of Jan. 22, 1897, which has not been cited anywhere before:

“The widow of Dr. Rizal is a woman with a past. The story of the life of the young woman who is stated to have had such a dramatic marriage with the late Dr. Rizal, on the eve of his being shot for complicity in the Philippine Rebellion, loses much of the glamour and romance with which recent events seem to have coloured it, when related by Mr. [George] Taufer, who adopted her as his daughter at a very early age. Mr. Taufer, who resides at No. 8 Western Street, West Point, has had a most varied life. After taking part in the Civil War in America, he sailed from San Francisco to China. He was an engineer by profession, and for a number of years served on some of the coast and river steamers, afterwards enlisting in the Hong Kong Police Force, in which he did service for four years, retiring with the rank of sergeant. He was then appointed chief of the fire brigade of the Hong Kong Fire Insurance Company, retiring from this position in 1894 on account of failing eyesight. Mr. Taufer is now almost stone blind, but fortunately he is otherwise in very comfortable circumstances enjoying the fruits of what he assured us was heard-earned means.

“The girl who has been brought so prominently before the public recently is not as has been stated of mixed parentage, but is of purely Irish extraction. She is in fact a daughter of the regiment, her father having served with the 28th Regiment in Hong Kong. She was born on the 9 August, 1876, and is therefore slightly over 20 years of age. The girl by some unfortunate circumstances having been left unprovided for, Mr. Taufer adopted her as his daughter, and gave her a good education.

“During the two years Mr. Taufer has suffered from cataract he had consulted numerous medical men, in order that he might have his sight restored, but without avail. Finally, he was advised to take a trip to the Philippines, and it was whilst on this journey that he first made the acquaintance of the late Dr. Rizal. In the latter part of Sep-

tember 1894, he departed to the Philippines, leaving Josephine to follow by a later steamer. He stayed in Manila during the months of October, November, December [1894] and January [1895], where he was joined by Josephine, who, he states, had during his absence from Hong Kong made pretty free with his money, and had behaved in a manner hardly reciprocal of the attention which Mr. Taufer had bestowed upon her. She spent a large sum of money which had been entrusted to her keeping in a lavish purchase of jewelry and in other extravagances. When she arrived in Manila she presented herself to her adopted father dressed in all this finery, and on Mr. Taufer being informed by the woman who acted as his nurse of Josephine’s extravagance he could not refrain from reprimanding her. This matter having been eventually settled, Mr. Taufer and his adopted daughter went down to Perin [?] on the Island of Dapitan.

“There is no built house in this place, only a number of mat sheds, but there is a Roman Catholic stone church. Here it was that Dr. Rizal made their acquaintance, being called in to operate on Mr. Taufer’s eyes.

“Mr. Taufer states that he was greatly enraged at the treatment he received at the hands of the doctor. Dr. Rizal cut one of his eyes, and stated he would complete the operation, but he had never done anything more, and the eye operated upon is

now sightless, while the other eye is sensitive of a shadow passing over it. Mr. Taufer was so enraged at the doctor’s treatment that he vehemently relates of his endeavor to attack Rizal with a razor but was only prevented by the strenuous efforts of five soldiers.

“Mr. Taufer stayed there only about a month and his adopted daughter frequently requested to be allowed to marry Dr. Rizal, which request he indignantly refused. Josephine used many threats in order to gain his consent to the union, some of which were of a particularly degrading character. Afterwards she stated that she was married to Dr. Rizal, and Mr. Taufer believes this to be the case, and the mock marriage that was carried out previous to the execution was performed under the compulsion of the priests.

“Altogether this woman, who it is stated has gone to the rebel stronghold at Imus, can hardly be regarded, considering her former character as related by one so closely connected with her, as anything approaching the illustrious prototype with whom her name has recently been associated. Mr. Taufer returned to Hong Kong in January 1896[?].”

More hitherto unknown sources from my notes will be shared in future columns.

Comments are welcome in my Facebook Fan Page.



Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Maharlika – Samu’t Sari



Dr. Josefina G. Tayag, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs of UP Manila, and Bishop Nilo S. Tayag of the Philippine Independent Catholic Church, pose with participants of the seminar held at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



From left, Dr. Celia B. Lamkin of the UP Alumni Association and US Pinoys for Good Governance (Saipan); Gov. Benigno R. Fitial; Dr. Josefina G. Tayag, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs of UP Manila; and Bishop Nilo S. Tayag of the Philippine Independent Catholic Church during a courtesy visit to Fitial. The Tayags conducted on Saipan the workshop “Bridging the Gap: Overseas Filipinos in our Contemporary Society” last week, which was coordinated by Lamkin.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Dr. Josefina G. Tayag, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs of UP Manila; and Bishop Nilo S. Tayag of the Philippine Independent Catholic Church, give a courtesy call on members of the CNMI Legislature last week. The couple were on Saipan to conduct the workshop Bridging the Gap: Overseas Filipinos in our Contemporary Society.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Eleanor Loste, workshop attendee, presents their group's input on OFW's major problems, severity, causes, and corresponding proposed solutions to each problem.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Participants of the seminar have their picture taken with Bishop Nilo S. Tayag of the Philippine Independent Catholic Church.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



SUPER READER

Fourth grader Eric Kiser of Saipan International School is a reading machine. This school year he has read 59 books and over 2,589,314 words. He has taken 59 quizzes and has passed them all. The Accelerated Reader Program at SIS is in its second year and has improved reading comprehension and vocabulary from grades K to 9. Eric has acquired over 350 points that he uses to obtain prizes. After 35 weeks of school, the fourth graders needed 116 points. Eric has surpassed that by 240.3 points. With a reading level of 6.6, Eric continues to strive for perfection. He is one of the many “Super Readers” at SIS. Great job, Eric!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



YOUTH CLUB

Guam LEO Club advisor Fely Angel, right, talks to the youth about the benefits of joining the club that provides youth volunteer opportunities during the SAFE Jamboree on April 30.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



WELCOME BACK

Viralicci Beauty Salon is happy to have Patrick Kapau-an, center, back in its fold. Posing with Kapau-an in this photo are Daisy Ebreeo and Fely Peralta.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Youngstyle

Elephant therapy program for Thai autistic kids

LAMPANG, Thailand (AP)—Kuk-kik, a 14-year-old boy, punctuates his few, slurred words with yelps. Kong screams and bites his fingers when he can't figure out how much to pay for bananas. Other children freeze mid-motion, fix their gazes on minute objects and withdraw.

Enter Nua Un and Prathida—two gentle, lively and clever female elephants—and the mood among the autistic teenagers in Thailand changes as they begin their therapy, the world's first using these charismatic animals.

They scrub and soap their bristly hides, play ball games with the well-trained pachyderms and ride them bareback, smiling.

"Chang, chang (Elephant, elephant). Children, have you ever seen an elephant?" the group sings, clapping hands to the traditional Thai nursery tune and hugging the elephants' trunks. Disco-like, Nua Un bobs her head and sways.

Everyone cheers in a rousing climax to another day in this program in the forests of northern Thailand, which seeks to help autistic children through interaction with elephants.

Animal therapy for people with developmental disabilities—notably using dolphins, dogs and horses—is not new, and has provoked skepticism—especially in connection with expensive swimming-with-dolphins programs. But some anecdotal evidence and studies have shown positive results.

Wittaya Khem-nguad, the elephant project's founder, says parents "see improvements after the elephant therapy and that gives them this hope."

A small preliminary observation found improvements among four boys after three weeks of elephant therapy, but more research with larger samples is needed, says Rebecca Johnson, who heads the Research Center for Human Animal Interaction at the University of Missouri. A presentation on the Thai program was recently made at the school's Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders.

Autism is incurable but therapy and medication can improve speech, learning and social problems, and reduce behavior like tantrums.

Elephants have lost their traditional roles in Thailand as trucks, teak loggers, and battle tanks, Wittaya, who gave up a career in advertising to work with elephants, started the project as a way to help the endangered animals regain their usefulness. After reading about horse riding therapy, he approached Chiang Mai University, where Nuntanee Satiansukpong, head of its occupational therapy department, suggested elephants might help those with autism.

Elephants, she says, provide the rich, attention-grabbing "sensory menu" beneficial to the autistic, while the animals' intelligence and other traits allow for a wide range of interactions with humans. Additionally, elephants are woven into the fabric of Thai culture, familiar to children since birth.

Nuntanee worked out six key activities for the therapy sessions with her staff. Then they went to the government-run Thai Elephant Conservation Center near the northern city of Lampang, where the sessions take place in a forested clearing.



In this April 21, 2011 photo shows an autistic boy as he rides Nua Un, a female elephant, during an animal therapy program in Lampang, Thailand. The program seeks to help autistic children through interaction with the well-trained pachyderms.



This April 22, 2011 photo shows Nuntanee Satiansukpong, in white, the head of occupational therapy department, as she rides Nua Un, a female elephant, during an animal therapy program in Lampang, Thailand.

Each activity is designed to improve specific skills. The children learn to follow step-by-step instructions by drawing up shopping lists and buying food for the elephants—bananas, sugar cane, corn, sunflower seeds—at a mock store with real money. If the elephant rejects the food, they return to the store for an alternative, which teaches flexibility. Feeding the animals and brushing 7-year-old Nua Un when she obligingly lies on her side for a bath can help the kids overcome an aversion to sticky and rough textures.

Playing games, with the elephants kicking and offering balls with their trunks, fosters group activities. Riding, besides sheer fun, requires specific sequences of mounting and commanding while addressing poor balance and posture. And elephant-themed art activities—painting and making mobiles, paper lanterns and mosaics—spark the imagination.

"The elephant is such a big stimulus it can keep the attention of an individual longer, and since it is such a wonderful animal bonding can occur," says Nuntanee. "If we can drag the children out of their own world they will be better," she says.

But throughout the day, some of the participants regress. Kuk-kik Kraisirir refuses to take part in a game, abruptly squatting down to bang two stones together and poke the earth with a stick. Kong Jatjeeng erupts in screams after a stray brush stroke. A third teen tears his paper lantern to shreds because he cannot puncture holes for stringing it up, then sobs.

The parents, who accompany their children to the elephant center, have asked for the free therapy to be continuous, but Nuntanee says that with limited funding, only eight-day sessions are offered.

Kuk-kik's mother Saithong says her son doesn't usually "join activities with other people. He would be by himself. This is the first time he is not."

Kong's mother Keesorn said the therapy helps make her son more patient, gentler and willing to share. But she added: "His mood changes every day. He lives in his own world. We will have to take care of him for the rest of our lives."

This Thursday, April 21, 2011 photo shows autistic children as they ride Nua Un, a female elephant, during an animal therapy program in Lampang, Thailand. The program seeks to help autistic children through interaction with the well-trained pachyderms.

Life & Style

Schwarzenegger sheds old life as he plots return

By JAKE COYLE
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

As Arnold Schwarzenegger plots his return to Hollywood, he will in some ways resemble the young Austrian who came to California many years ago: single and not a politician.

Now 63, he is older and while very fit, not quite as buff as he was in his "Conan the Barbarian" days. Yet Schwarzenegger's impending new chapter recalls the first time the former bodybuilder attempted—and wildly succeeded at—a quixotic transition to Hollywood.

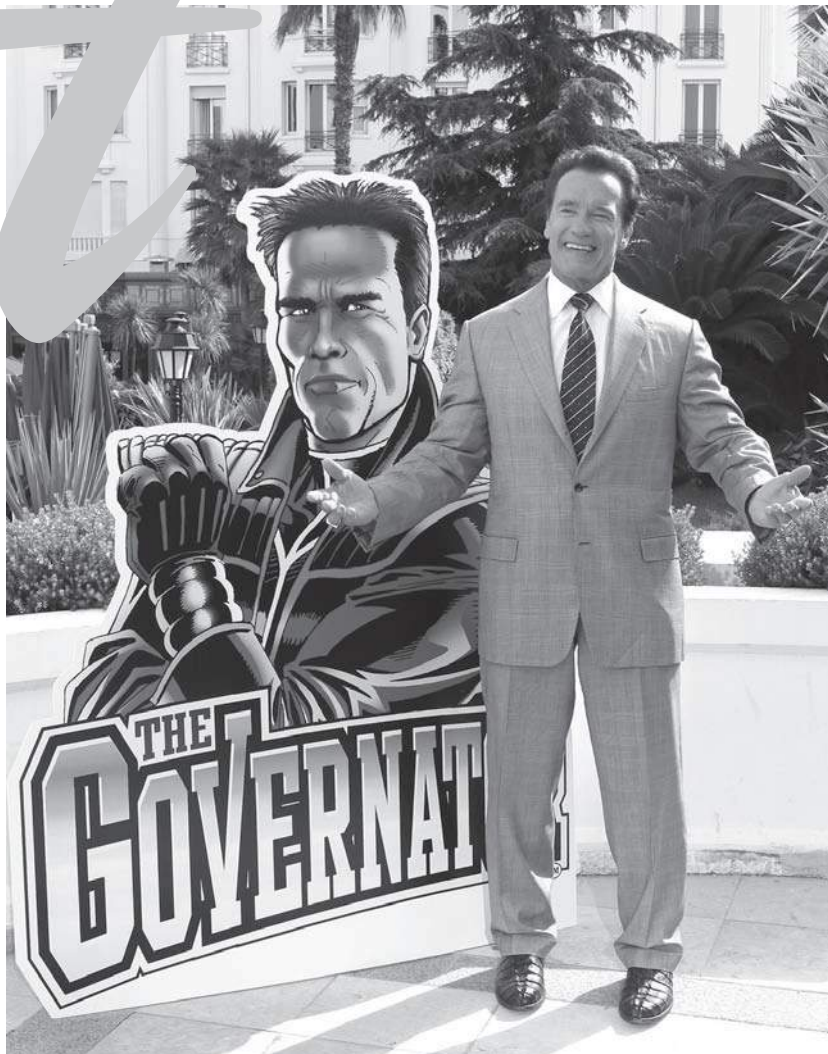
Schwarzenegger finished his seven-year run as California governor in January. On Monday, he and his wife of 25 years, Maria Shriver, announced that they are separating.

Unless there are tawdry details to come, the separation won't have any effect on Schwarzenegger's rebooted career. This is Hollywood, after all, not politics, where winning elections usually means having a supportive companion at the podium.

Simultaneously splitting from both his wife and politics only reinforces that this is a new, late phase for Schwarzenegger. In a statement, he and Shriver called it "a time of great personal and professional transition for each of us."

Already reorienting from Sacramento to Hollywood, Schwarzenegger has found that showbiz is happy to have him back.

He's making an animated TV show, "The Governor," with famed comic book writer Stan Lee. He plans to star as a horse trainer in the drama "Cry Macho" for producer Albert Ruddy ("The Godfather," "Million Dollar Baby"). He's also reportedly interested in starring as a border sheriff in Kim Ji-



Arnold Schwarzenegger

woon's planned "The Last Stand."

"I am not as eager to run for office," Schwarzenegger said in an interview with The Associated Press last month. "Entertainment is the important thing right now."

Many are surely awaiting Schwarzenegger's return to movies. He remains one of the most popular action film stars ever, a position younger stars have failed to

usurp. His movies have grossed more than \$1.6 billion domestically.

The last time he starred in a film was 2003's "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines," which most viewed as a lesser installment in the series. A month after it was released, Schwarzenegger announced on "The Tonight Show" that he would run in the 2003 California recall election for governor.

"Being off-screen for so long, I think people are anxious to see what he'll do next on the big screen," says Paul Dergarabedian, box office analyst for Hollywood.com. "He was one of the biggest movie stars in the world. There's no way that he can come back quietly."

The animated "Governator" will likely be the first project that viewers see from Schwarzenegger. In it, he voices a superhero character based on Schwarzenegger's own life. In a sneak-peak teaser, the animated governor inverts his famous line on the state Capitol steps, saying: "I won't be back."

"When you are a governor, you deal with keeping the beaches clean, making sure there's enough funding for the after-school programs and the lunch programs for the kids, and all of those kinds of things," Schwarzenegger said when introducing the show in Cannes. "As an action hero, you just have to save the world—that's it."

The show is to be drawn from Schwarzenegger's personal life so much that the actor had told Entertainment Weekly that Shriver would voice a character. (The project also includes a comic book, a video game and eventually a movie.)

"At the last minute, toward the end, we decided that we wouldn't be using his wife in the story, anyway," says Lee. "So (the couple's breakup) really won't affect anything at all except we can probably have a lot of girls having crushes on our hero as the story goes on—which we probably would have done anyway."

Still, the greater intrigue will likely follow Schwarzenegger on the big screen. Shooting of "Cry Macho" is to begin in September, with Brad Furman ("The Lincoln Lawyer") to direct the script based on the 1975 novel by N. Richard Nash.

Recent box office history suggests

the market is quite good for aging action stars. "Red," which starred Bruce Willis and Helen Mirren, earned more than \$90 million domestically last year. Sylvester Stallone's "The Expendables" did even better, taking in \$103 million domestically and an additional \$171 million internationally.

Schwarzenegger made a cameo in "The Expendables," which assembled a cast of action stars in an '80s-style shoot-'em-up. Most of today's action films—which frequently star Jason Statham, Dwayne Johnson or Vin Diesel—tend to be quite different in style than the movies Schwarzenegger used to star in.

"He was in a category all of his own," says Lee. "Nobody really has come along to fill the spot he was in. Even though he's a few years older now, he's still in great shape, he still looks terrific. He looks about the way he looked then. I think he's going to make quite an impact now. It's something he wants to do. He obviously loves acting. I think he'll do really well and I think the public will be eager to see him again."

The actor's most successful films were often sci-fi tales, including "Predator," "The Running Man," "Total Recall" and the "Terminator" movies. There were also comedies ("Twins," "Kindergarten Cop"), disappointments ("Last Action Hero") and missteps better forgotten (Mr. Freeze in "Batman & Robin").

Stallone is working on a sequel to "The Expendables," though Schwarzenegger is not yet attached. In 2009, "Terminator Salvation" continued the series without Schwarzenegger, instead casting Sam Worthington in the futuristic cyborg role. Hollywood trades have reported that Schwarzenegger's agents are shopping a sequel to the franchise, with Schwarzenegger returning to arguably his most famous character.

Kutcher gives online hint about joining 'Men'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Twitter king Ashton Kutcher gave his followers a big clue Wednesday that he may be joining "Two and a Half Men"—either that or he's punking them.

"What's the square root of 6.25?" the actor asked in a tweet.

The answer is 2-1/2.

Kutcher's online message came amid reports that he's nearing a deal to replace the fired Charlie Sheen on TV's top-rated comedy. The 33-year-old was negotiating with series producer Warner Bros., The Hollywood Reporter said Wednesday, citing unidentified sources. Earlier, Broadcasting & Cable reported Kutcher had emerged as a candidate for the CBS series.

Warner Bros. declined comment, as did CBS. Kutcher's representatives did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

There is deadline pressure to get a deal done, with CBS presenting its fall lineup to advertisers in New York next Wednesday.

Kutcher gained fame on another sitcom, "That 70s Show," then focused on film roles (the romantic comedy "No Strings Attached"

the most recent) and producing, including the prank show "Punk'd."

Warner and CBS have been shopping for a name actor who could keep the highly lucrative sitcom afloat without Sheen. Within recent days, negotiations with British film star Hugh Grant fell apart because of reported creative differences.



Kutcher

There was speculation Wednesday that Kutcher could parlay his nearly 6.7 million Twitter followers and even bigger Facebook fan club into continued healthy viewership for "Two and a Half Men."

But Kutcher's effort to use social media to boost "The Beautiful Life," which he produced for the CW network, proved lackluster: The 2009 series, which was a venture between CBS and Warner Bros., was

canceled after just two episodes.

It's been more than two months since Warner fired Sheen in the show's eighth season, a move that followed the hard-living actor's bouts of wild partying, repeated hospitalizations and a bitter media campaign against his studio bosses who shut down production.

Gibson's rants might not be used in custody case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A series of Mel Gibson's racist and sexist rants might not be used as evidence during an ongoing child custody dispute, an attorney for his ex-girlfriend told a judge Thursday.

The disclosure comes a week after Oksana Grigorieva's attorney, Daniel Horowitz, told the court that his client was dropping her claims that Gibson physically abused her. That stems from a case over the custody and care of their infant daughter.

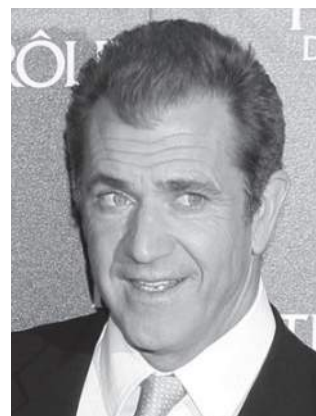
Horowitz's comments came after Gibson attorney Stephen Kolodny complained that he had been trying to get access to the Russian musician's laptop for nearly a year to find out more about the recordings.

Horowitz noted that Grigorieva is no longer seeking a domestic violence restraining order against Gibson and the rants were more important to those allegations than any other aspects of the case.

The recordings, which were leaked to the celebrity website RadarOnline.com, included misogynistic statements about Grigorieva by the Oscar-winner and also several racial slurs. The tapes were reviewed by authorities who eventually charged Gibson with misdemeanor domestic violence battery but have never been played in open court.

The "Braveheart" and "Lethal Weapon" star pleaded no contest to the battery charge and was placed on probation and ordered to undergo counseling.

"It should be noted that the sheriff's department did a thorough investigation of Ms. Grigorieva's laptop and



Gibson

turned over their findings to the district attorney, who concluded there was no evidence of any crime whatsoever by Ms. Grigorieva," her spokesman Stephen Jaffe said. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Scott Gordon on Thursday agreed to halt the case for a month to give Horowitz a chance to appeal a ruling rejecting a motion by Grigorieva to disqualify the actor-director's attorneys from the case.

She based the disqualification request on the fact that she had consulted and met with one of Kolodny's partners before the current case was filed.

Gordon rejected her motion, saying Grigorieva waited too long to raise the issue. He said the case, which has been heard largely in closed sessions, had already spanned 65 hearings and he had issued more than 100 rulings. There were thousands of pages of pleadings in the case, and most of Gibson's filings were handled by Kolodny's firm, Gordon said.

In all, Gordon estimated attorneys have billed more than \$1 million for the case so far.

Horowitz said he thought there were enough issues involved with Grigorieva's consultation with Kolodny's partner, Ronald Anteau, that the appeals court may consider reviewing the case.

Gordon agreed to a brief delay, but ordered a proceeding scheduled for June 23 to remain on calendar. The remaining issues, the judge said, relate to child support and specific custody arrangements.

'American Idol' axes another finalist

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"American Idol" voters apparently stopped believin' in James Durbin.

The wailing 22-year-old rocker from Santa Cruz, Calif., was revealed to have received the fewest viewer votes on the Fox talent contest Thursday, leaving just three finalists remaining in the competition. Durbin consistently wowed the judges and did so again Wednesday with Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'" and The Clovers' "Love Potion No. 9."

"I was really hoping to get there," a tearful Durbin said after the results were revealed.

Durbin, the towering singer whose vocal acrobatics recalled the wonders of eighth season runner-up Adam Lambert, was never among the show's bottom-three vote-getters after such eccentric performances as Muse's "Uprising" or Elton John's "Saturday Night's Alright for Fighting," which respectively included accompaniment by marching drummers and a flaming piano.

"I did so much stuff that's never been done on this show before," he said Thursday.

Durbin's dismissal means deep-voiced 17-year-old coun-



AP
In this publicity image released by Fox, James Durbin performs on the singing competition series "American Idol," on May 11, 2011 in Los Angeles.

try crooner Scotty McCreery of Garner, N.C., growling 20-year-old singer Haley Reinhart of Wheeling, Ill., and soaring 16-year-old songstress Alania Alania of Rossville, Ga., are the top three finalists. Reinhart has appeared at the bottom a total of four times, while Alania was there only once last week.

Before the elimination, Durbin and McCreery teamed up for the Brad Paisley and Keith Urban duet "Start a Band," while Reinhart and Alania were paired for Miranda Lambert's "Gunpowder and Lead." The installment also included performances by Lady Gaga, Enrique Iglesias, sixth season "Idol" winner Jordin Sparks and the debut of Steven Tyler's solo music video.

The top-three singers will visit their hometowns this weekend then return to the stage next Wednesday with another finalist dismissed Thursday, paving the way for the 10th season "Idol" champion to be crowned on the May 26 finale. In addition to Sparks, past winners of "Idol" have included Lee DeWyze, Kris Allen, David Cook and Carrie Underwood.

Table-hopping friend deserts dinner companions to hobnob

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: From time to time, my husband and I are asked by some friends to dine out with them. However, the wife does some things that make us very uncomfortable. She prides herself on being friendly and outgoing. When we're in a restaurant, she'll go from table to table and engage in conversations with people she doesn't know. She'll ask where they're from, what they've ordered, etc. Once, she eavesdropped while the people at the next table discussed what they were ordering and gave them her opinion on what they should "really" order. It progressed to her joining them for a short time at their table for further conversation.

While I appreciate that she's trying to impress us, it embarrasses my husband and me. How do we handle the situation without telling her, making her feel bad and putting a strain on our friendship? We don't enjoy dining out with them like we used to. Are we overreacting, or is this bad manners?

MORTIFIED IN SALT LAKE CITY

DEAR MORTIFIED: If you and your husband are dinner guests, the lady should be devoting her attention to you and not the other diners in the restaurant. To leave you and go table-hopping is rude. However, to call her on it would be equally rude. So, because you don't enjoy dining out with them the way you used to, do it less often and it will be less upsetting.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: How can we convince our married daughter with children to seek a separation or divorce from her husband, who is physically, mentally and economically abusive to her and the kids? We believe she's suffering from low self-esteem, depression and other issues she can't resolve with him.

She has had to borrow what little money we can spare to buy food, school clothing and other basics. Her husband believes she should be working, taking care of an infant and an older child, paying for day care, half the bills and mortgage. Abby, this man has an income in the lower six figures!

We suggested therapy, but it was ignored. He blames everything on her. There is so much more to this story, but it would take up 10 of your columns. Please help.

DESPERATE DAD IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR DESPERATE: A lawyer could point out to your daughter that she lives in a community property state, and half of what her husband has accumulated during the marriage is hers. A social worker could warn her that abuse doesn't remain static, that it can escalate to violence if it hasn't already. Statistics could illustrate that men who abuse their wives often go on to abuse their children. There is much that could be done, but not until or unless your daughter is willing to admit to herself that she is the victim of spousal abuse and take action.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law, "Kay"—who is in her 50s—dresses like she's in her teens or 20s. Don't get me wrong, she looks great. She exercises several hours a day to keep in shape and follows a strict diet.

Kay wears spaghetti-strap shirts and short skirts in the summer, and bikinis to sunbathe. I understand that she wants to show off her body, but is there a way to direct her to more age-appropriate clothing? Or am I in the wrong here?

PRIM AND PROPER IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR PRIM AND PROPER: You are well-intentioned, but if you are wise, you will refrain from giving your mother-in-law any unasked-for fashion advice. How she dresses is her business, not yours, and I seriously doubt your comments would be welcomed.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pianist Lang Lang honored by UK's Prince Charles

LONDON (AP)—Classical music megastar Lang Lang has been given an honorary doctorate in music by Prince Charles at a ceremony in London.

The Chinese virtuoso pia-

nist was one of several artists honored Thursday at the Royal College of Music by the prince, who also bestowed doctorates upon composer James MacMillan and conduc-

tor Esa-Pekka Salonen.

Lang Lang's record label Sony Music said the 28-year-old musician was the youngest and the only Chinese individual to be distinguished with the honor.

Charles, a noted music lover, was treated to an unusual piano recital by graduate Antoine Francoise, who plucked at the instrument's strings rather than playing its keys.

Will Ferrell wins top Mark Twain humor prize in DC

WASHINGTON (AP)—Will Ferrell, who honed his impression of President George W. Bush on "Saturday Night Live" and crossed over to make a career in movies, will win the nation's top humor prize from the Kennedy Center in Washington.

The 14th annual Mark Twain

Prize for American Humor was announced Thursday. Ferrell will be honored Oct. 23 with a lineup of star comedy performances.

In a written statement, Ferrell says he is honored and will begin cultivating a "Mark Twainesque mustache" for the event.

Ferrell starred for seven sea-

sons on "Saturday Night Live." In 2007, he created the website FunnyorDie.com with collaborator Adam McKay. He has performed on Broadway and in movies including "Anchorman," "Old School" and "Zoolander."

Past honorees include Tina Fey, Bill Cosby and Steve Martin.

Mary Tyler Moore: brain surgery for benign tumor

NEW YORK (AP)—A representative for Mary Tyler Moore said Thursday that the veteran sitcom star has gone in to a facility for surgery to remove a benign tumor on the lining of her brain.

Spokeswoman Alla Plotkin says Moore's doctors recommended the elective procedure after monitoring the tumor "for years."

Plotkin would not specify if the surgery had already taken place, or how Moore was doing.

The procedure was to remove a meningioma, a slow-growing tumor in the membranes that cover the brain. Meningiomas usually occur in older adults and are mostly benign.

The 74-year-old Moore gained stardom as a modern suburban housewife on the 1960s comedy "The Dick Van Dyke Show," then went on to headline her own successful series as a single woman pursuing a career.

Moore's plan to have the surgery was first reported on People magazine's website.



Moore

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Bono talks drug violence with Mexico's president

MEXICO CITY (AP)—U2's Bono has met with President Felipe Calderon and the two discussed the drug violence and poverty affecting Mexico. Bono is in Mexico in the final leg of the Irish rock band's 360 Tour. Mexico's president thanked the lead singer of U2 for sending a message to victims of drug violence during his performance Wednesday. Bono visited the presidential residence Los Pinos on Thursday. The politically active Bono has been known to meet with world leaders. A presidential statement said Calderon and Bono also discussed global warming and Mexico's opportunities as the host of the G-20 reunion in 2012. Calderon congratulated Bono for his 51st birthday on Tuesday.

Stars urge support in CMT disaster benefit

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Celebrities and music stars are urging people across the country to donate to Southern disaster relief through the CMT benefit concert, "Music Builds." Hank Williams Jr. kicked off the concert in Nashville with a rendition of "I Saw the Light" with the Blind Boys of Alabama. President Barack Obama appeared in a video message from a plant in Indiana to praise volunteers, first responders and local, state and federal officials for their efforts after the deadly tornadoes. He encouraged Americans to

support one another. Lady Antebellum performed a medley of songs. Nicole Kidman, Shania Twain, Courtney Cox and others appeared in video messages, telling stories of survivors. More than 300 people were killed across seven states two weeks ago, more than 200 in Alabama alone, when a record number of twisters struck.

'Mike & Molly' star Gardell ready for standup tour

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Billy Gardell plans a working summer, regardless of whether his sitcom "Mike & Molly" returns for a second year. Gardell starts a national standup tour in June titled "Half-time," in support of his DVD of the same name. The 41-year-old comedian said the title refers to the fact he's about midway through life. It was a "sloppy first half," he jokes, but now he's a father and has settled down. "When I was younger I was crazy," he said. "Then you go from, 'Yeah, I'll do another shot' to 'How much sodium is in that?'" His boy is proving a big influence on his work. "My son is 7. A lot of material comes from hanging out with him. He and I are on the same intellectual level," Gardell joked. His comedy tour will take him to theaters in Oklahoma, Texas, Ohio and other states. Gardell stars with Melissa McCarthy in "Mike & Molly" as a couple who found love at an Overeaters Anonymous meeting.

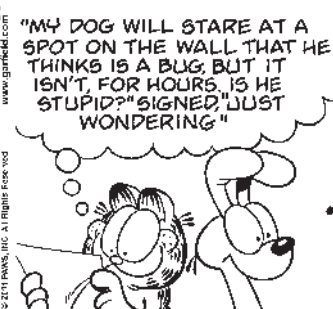
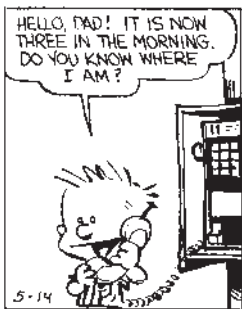
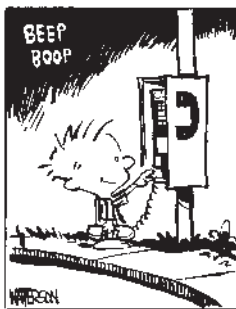
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

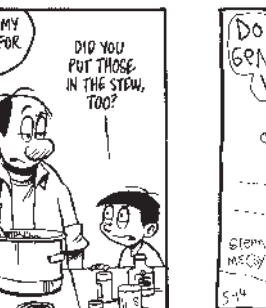
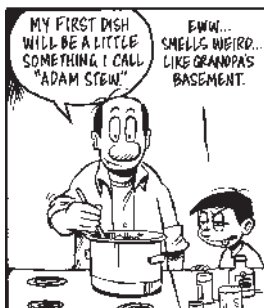


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Resort
4 Rem-brand's works
8 Obi, e.g.
12 Longing
13 Rotten kid
14 Between tasks
15 Profit
16 Volcanic output
17 Approach
18 Global warming, euphemistically
21 Noshed
22 Pond carp
23 Rental agreement
26 Infinitesimal
27 Hiatus
30 Leave a lasting impression
31 Roulette bet
32 Senate staffer
33 Lemieux milieu
34 Exemplar of patience
35 Silky synthetic

DOWN

1 Harmonization
2 Rind
3 Con
4 Flattened at the ends
5 Very angry
6 Wash
7 In a pile
8 Mideast peninsula
9 Mideast gulf
10 Typical refuse
11 Roll call reply
19 Pulverize
20 Weed whacker
23 Main-lan-der's memento
24 List-end-ing abbr.
25 Dogfight participant
26 Symbol of intrigue
27 Festive
28 In olden days
29 Sword vanquisher?
31 1933 Kern-Harbach musical
32 Rid of 2-Down
34 Moon-shine container
35 Prepare leftovers
36 Appetite killer?
37 Fre-quently
38 Bunch of sailors
39 Crosby's pal
40 Largest of the seven
41 Obama's birthplace
42 Some-where out there
43 Optimistic
44 Work at the keyboard

Solution time: 27 mins.

FAA	GEM	TEETH
ADD	AXE	ALGAE
CHI	FINAL	FOUR
TOE	FLICK	
SCUM	ENE	TRUE
	OLD	SPHINX
TABOO		ORBIT
EPONYM	DIE	
NEWS	AGA	EXIT
	AGENT	ERE
LAST	DITCH	NON
INDAHO	TEFF	INS
SEXES	ORE	AYE

Yesterday's answer 5-14

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Miranda Cosgrove, 18; Cate Blanchett, 42; Tim Roth, 50; George Lucas, 67

Happy Birthday: Protect your assets, your position and your status. Obstacles will lead to uncertainty but, if you are focused and intent on reaching your goals, you will. Your serious attitude and well thought out plans should be enough to maintain slow growth. Your numbers are 2, 13, 17, 25, 38, 36, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't limit what you can do because someone is putting additional stipulations on you. Rise above any interference you face and you will surpass the obstacles put in your way. You may require patience but do not let anyone take advantage of you. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make the most of what you have to work with and you will get ahead. Finishing off projects or taking care of odds and ends that give a job that polished look will bring you all sorts of compliments. Push for perfection. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Getting together with friends or colleagues will lead to beneficial discussions. A lover, child or friend will make a difference to the choices you make regarding who you associate with in business and in activities. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You have to participate but you don't have to agree with everyone. Good fortune is on your side, so don't be afraid to stand alone in order to make your point heard. A journey will clear your vision and help you make a decision. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Remembering the past and the experiences you encountered will help you alter your current lifestyle to work more efficiently. Making a snap decision will turn out well. Your generous nature will be quite impressive. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Taking it upon yourself to do the groundwork will show others how you operate when you want results. Don't cave under pressure to spend more than you can afford. Collect an old debt or pay off what you owe and you can move on. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put a little more effort into your personal relationships. Whether it's a friend, lover or family member, do what you can to make life better by engaging in activities you enjoy. Your desire to please others will bring you rewards. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Let your intuition guide you in affairs of the heart and the home. Preparing for the future by finishing projects that need tweaking will help build confidence and motivate you to be more determined and successful. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Engage in a little adventure and you will feel exhilarated. Challenging activities will allow you to meet new people or reunite with those from your past. Love is in the stars. ****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You've been fighting a losing battle but the chance to make a strategic move is present. Keep a close eye on what others are doing but make the personal and physical changes

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



that will make you feel good about where you are heading. Life altering changes are upon you. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Concentrate on your attributes and schedule a meeting with someone you feel can help or direct you. Money is heading your way through a rebate, surrender, gift or an old investment. A past partner will give you the go-ahead or blessing to use something that was developed by both of you. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Lean on your intuition but do the research to back the way you feel. Without sufficient proof, you will have a difficult time getting others to join in your pursuit. A sudden and unexpected change regarding an emotional relationship will catch you off guard. ***

Birthday Baby: You take nothing for granted. You are clever and an opportunist, receptive to ideas.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, eugenialast.com/blog/ for Eugenia's blog and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	9		8		7	2					
	7							5	1		
4		6				7					
1				6						8	
5				3						9	
		5				3				4	
8	1							9			
		7	4		9			2			

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

5/14

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

9	5	7	4	2	1	6	8	3
4	8	6	7	5	3	1	2	9
3	2	1	9	8	6	5	4	7
2	3	5	1	6	8	7	9	4
6	4	9	2	7	5	3	1	8
7	1	8	3	4	9	2	6	5
1	9	4	6	3	7	8	5	2
5	6	3	8	9	2	4	7	1
8	7	2	5	1	4	9	3	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

5/14

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORDS. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ISNT AIRPORT SECURITY FUN?

Solution: 8 letters

B	S	P	E	X	S	H	C	I	T	S	A	L	P	C
A	O	T	R	D	S	S	I	N	S	C	A	I	R	H
G	A	R	O	N	E	I	D	P	N	M	I	L	R	
Y	A	R	O	H	O	L	A	D	A	M	E	T	O	
A	U	T	P	D	P	I	S	T	G	E	N	F	N	M
G	I	A	I	K	I	S	B	E	T	A	N	U	E	A
E	E	R	C	R	E	N	S	I	P	O	N	L	M	T
W	R	E	C	N	O	T	G	A	T	H	B	L	E	O
T	H	U	G	R	E	H	R	C	P	E	O	A	C	G
C	H	E	C	R	A	S	T	A	A	C	D	T	R	I
I	R	G	I	E	E	F	D	U	V	A	R	E	O	A
R	P	L	I	V	S	E	T	O	A	E	G	M	F	P
T	E	N	I	L	R	I	A	R	G	W	L	O	N	H
S	T	L	O	F	F	I	C	E	R	S	A	F	E	Y
S	S	R	O	T	C	E	T	E	D	E	N	N	A	B

©2011 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook

5/14

Aircraft, Airline, Authority, Baggage, Banned, Boarding, Body, Bottles, Cargo, Check, Chromatography, Crew, Crime, Detectors, Dogs, Enforcement, Flight, Full, Gate, Guards, Hidden, Images, Lives, Metal, Officers, Panel, Passenger, Passports, Photo, Plastic, Point, Prohibited, Safe, Secure, Step, Sterile, Strict, Travel, Weapons, X-ray

Yesterday's Answer: Cabernet

Today's Word: WONDERWORD; 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18- only.) A King Features service, NYC.

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Sign is wrong. 2. Fat is different. 3. Eyes are missing. 4. Man has a walking stick. 5. P. trees are missing. 6. Children is with backpack.

Wishing Well®

8	5	4	8	4	7	8	5	3	7	5	7	2
S	Y	N	U	E	L	C	O	O	I	U	F	L
8	7	5	8	4	7	3	4	5	6	8	5	2
C	E	G	E	V	I	T	E	A	C	S	I	I
6	2	7	2	5	7	6	8	6	3	6	7	6
O	F	S	E	N	E	N	S	S	H	I	N	D
4	6	2	6	2	6	4	3	5	4	8	6	3
R	E	I	R	S	A	Q	E	R	U	H	C	R
2	3	2	5	7	5	4	5	6	8	7	3	6
S	S	U	E	R	S	I	P	H	A	I	H	A
3	8	6	3	6	8	7	8	6	7	3	7	2
E	S	N	L	G	T	C	E	E	H	P	E	N
7	4	2	3	5	8	5	3	8	2	3	8	5
D	T	N	Y	E	N	C	O	E	Y	U	D	T

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

© 2011 King Features Synd., Inc. All rights reserved.

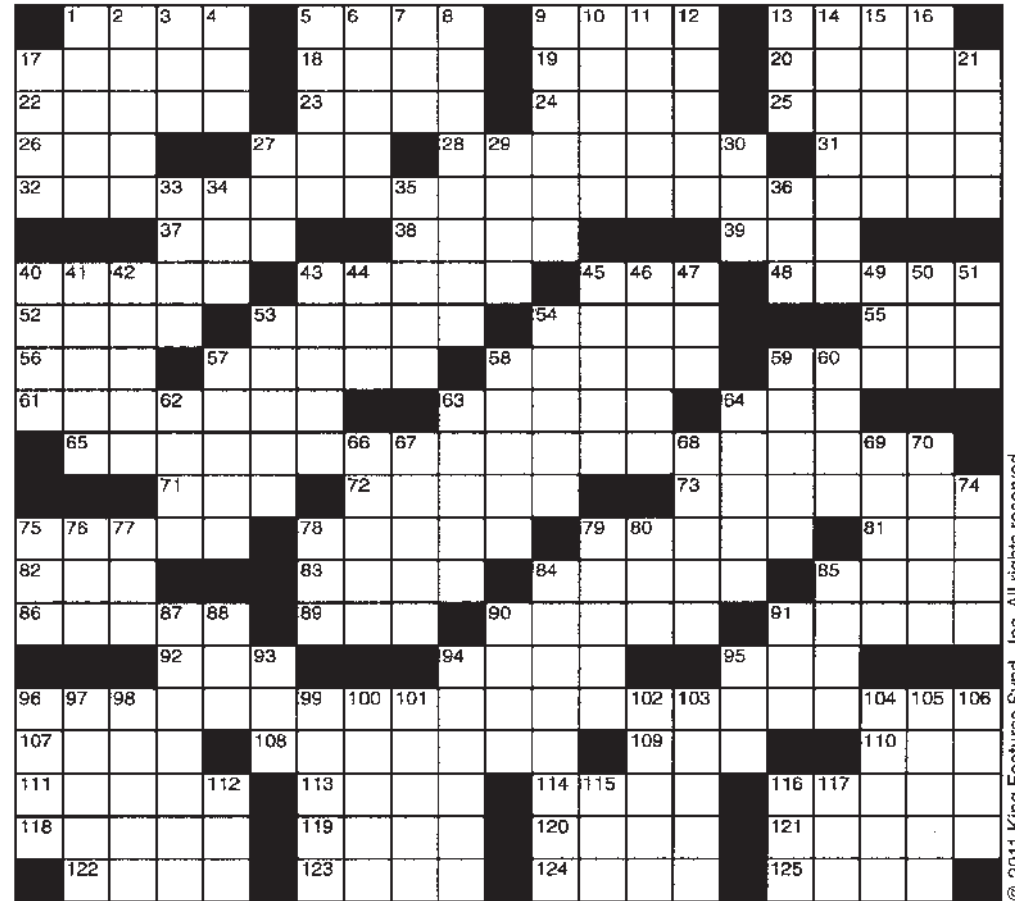
Super Crossword LIFE LINE

ACROSS

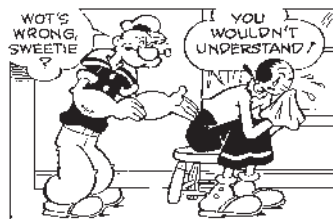
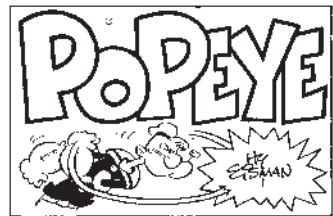
- 1 Interrogate
- 5 Took a dip
- 9 Engineering course
- 13 Theater collection
- 17 Government group
- 18 The Fates, e.g.
- 19 Akbar's city
- 20 Madonna role
- 22 Moral man?
- 23 Pianist Lupo
- 24 Unwelcome visit?
- 25 Plot
- 26 Narcs' org.
- 27 Roberts or Robertson
- 28 Took in
- 31 Dress size
- 32 Start of a remark by Marguerite Whitely
- 37 Malamute medic
- 38 Eaves dropper?
- 39 "— whiz!"
- 40 Assumption
- 43 "Tosca" tenor
- 45 "Veronica's Closet" item
- 48 Haggard
- 52 Surrounded by
- 53 Cook's cry
- 54 Wilbur
- Post's confidant
- 55 Curly poker?
- 56 Crony
- 57 Eisenhower, for one
- 58 African capital
- 59 Mansfield or Meadows
- 61 Author France
- 63 It comes from the heart
- 64 Weep
- 65 Middle of remark
- 71 "Make — double!"
- 72 Crack up
- 73 "Evil Ways" group
- 75 — salad
- 78 Pennsylvania sect
- 79 Rock's Tears for —
- 81 Squash shot
- 82 Garage supply
- 83 — in (yield)
- 84 Beetle Bailey's boss
- 85 1,760 yards
- 86 Put on hold
- 89 Vane letters
- 90 Composer Gabriel
- 91 '78 Peace Nobelist

DOWN

- 1 Chess piece
- 2 Retract
- 3 Skater Midori
- 4 Use a phaser
- 5 Scarecrow
- 6 Ire
- 7 Pitch in
- 8 Peak
- 9 Kind of swallow
- 10 Once more
- 11 Treat alternative
- 12 Hot spot?
- 13 Mo
- 14 First name in boxing
- 15 Shinbone
- 16 Berle sidekick
- 17 Pinkett of "The Nutty Professor"
- 21 Nautical adverb
- 27 Favorite
- 29 Kentucky neighbor
- 30 Westminster winner
- 33 Roman poet
- 34 Aerialist's fallback
- 35 Senator Hatch
- 36 Spear-headed
- 40 Mama's boy?
- 41 Muscat native
- 42 Mamer or Lapham
- 43 Diverse
- 44 Khan opener?
- 45 Actress Ekland
- 46 Broadcast in July
- 47 Bustie
- 49 One of the Marches
- 50 Finished first
- 51 Born
- 53 Perry's secretary
- 54 Swamp
- 57 Reggae's — and the
- 58 Cold sound
- 59 Pop Art pioneer
- 60 Blind as —
- 62 Relief initials?
- 63 Tickle
- 64 Gaw
- 66 Violinist
- 67 Inexperienced
- 68 Inedible fruit
- 69 Sound
- 70 "— Gay"
- 74 Facilitate a felony
- 75 Fare for a fry
- 76 Hurry
- 77 Sprite
- 78 Mr. Lucky's card
- 79 Gounod opera
- 80 Drop a brick
- 84 Juvenal or Swift
- 85 Certain
- 87 Stretchy
- 88 Gun the engine
- 90 Mirror image?
- 91 Crafty
- 93 Contemporary
- 94 Hold out
- 95 Word with good or bad
- 96 Clears one's throat
- 97 Forster's "— With a View"
- 98 Singer Summer
- 99 Parts
- 100 "— Got a Friend" ('71 hit)
- 101 Cosmetician Lauder
- 102 Everything considered
- 103 Bare
- 104 Kapitan's command
- 105 Armistice
- 106 Table d'—
- 112 Flap one's gums
- 115 — Torne
- 116 Prone
- 117 Arthur or Benaderet



© 2011 King Features Synd., Inc. All rights reserved.

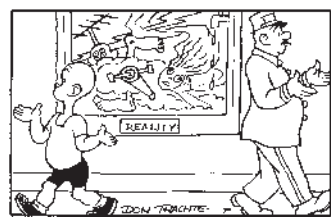
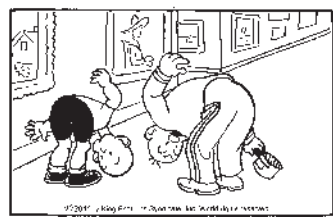
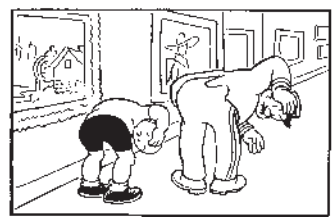
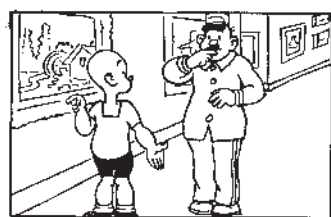
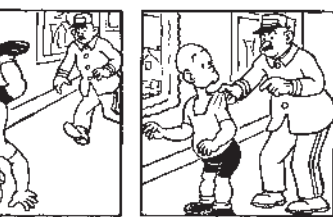
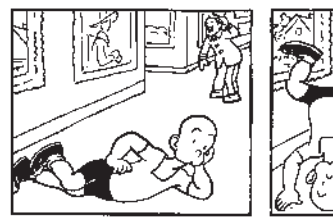
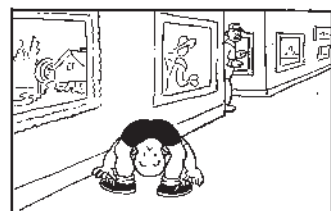
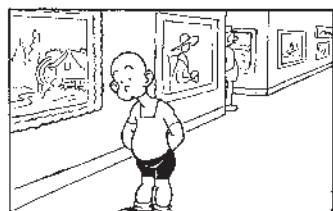
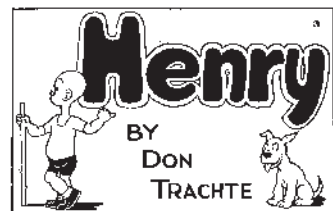
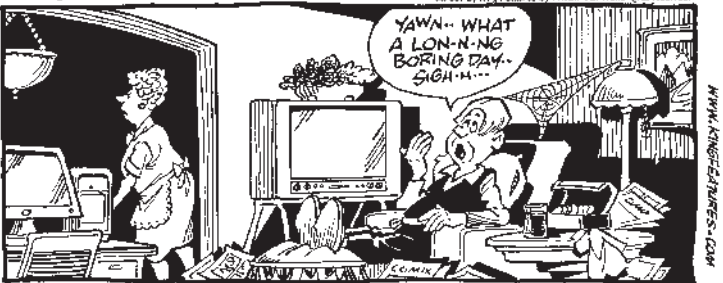


They'll Do It Every Time

TV WALK-A-THON...



SCHOOL DAZE— SCHOOL CLOSED BECAUSE OF A BAD STORM...YOUNG HEKKIE DREAMS OF ALL THE FUN THINGS TO DO ALL DAY...IS HIS DAY FULL OF FUN? WELL, NOT QUITE...YSEE, A SHORT WHILE LATER, THERE'S A POWER OUTAGE...NO TV...NO TV GAMES...NO COMPUTER GAMES...A FULL DAY TO DO NOTHING...



Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

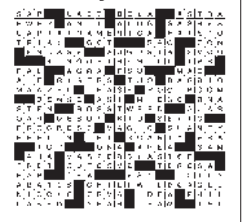
1. GOVERNMENT: What do FICA taxes pay for?
2. LANGUAGE: What is a wunderkind?
3. HISTORY: To what royal house did England's King Henry VIII belong?
4. U.S. STATES: What is Hawaii's state flower?
5. ANATOMY: In what part of the body is the sternum located?
6. MEASUREMENTS: On what type of scale are wind forces measured?
7. ROYAL TITLES: How should one address a duke in greeting?
8. GEOGRAPHY: What U.S. city is known as the "City of Brotherly Love"?
9. LITERATURE: What is doggerel?
10. MEDICINE: Who is credited with discovering the polio vaccine?

© 2011 King Features Synd., Inc.

10. Albert Sablin
9. Crudely written poetry
8. Philadelphia
7. Your grace
6. Beaufort Scale

1. Social Security
2. A prodigy
3. Tudor
4. Yellow hibiscus
5. Chest

Saturday's Answers



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



CLASSIFIED ADS



CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS


Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



BRIDGE CAPITAL, LLC

Bridge Capital, LLC is currently accepting applications for an IT Support/Marketing Position for its Garapan, Saipan office location.

The ideal candidate will:

- Have experience working with Microsoft Server 2003 Active Directory.
- Have experience providing hardware and software support for Windows XP, Windows Vista, and Windows 7 system. (MAC OSX experience a plus)
- Have experience working with Adobe Creative Suite.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills:
- Flexibility and the ability to work on additional projects as assigned is a must.

Interested candidates should email a resume and cover letter to js@bccnmi.com or submit at the Bridge Capital office.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH

Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH

Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

WANTED ESTIMATOR

INTERESTED APPLICANTS
APPLY FOR WELL ESTABLISHED CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
OR CALL AT 234-2440 OR 234-2443

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Semi-concrete house, fully-furnished 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Located in Rafugao-Puerto Rico. Tel. 285-1487

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars. Good condition. 2000 yr. & up. We pay cash! Pls. call 287-7676

FOR SALE

Bar Gaia for Sale. Behind Tony Roma's, Garapan. Steve: 483-3415/steve78chae@gmail.com

WHATZIT Solution:

At the end of one's tether

Looking for a way to tell everyone about your business?

YOU'RE LOOKING AT IT!

Saipan Tribune
235-6397



WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

11111TETHER

1948/1/19 © 2011 www.whatzit.com Distributed by Universal Uclick

www.facebook.com/dingbatgames

Find today's solution in this section

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

Chicago off to 1st conference final since '98



ATLANTA (AP)— Turns out, the Chicago Bulls are more than just a one-man team.

Derrick Rose sure had plenty of help in this one.

Next up: the Eastern Conference final, against Miami and the Big Three.

Carlos Boozer scored 23 points, Rose doled out 12 assists in more of a supporting role and the Bulls cruised past the Atlanta Hawks 93-73 on Thursday night, wrapping up the East semifinal in six games.

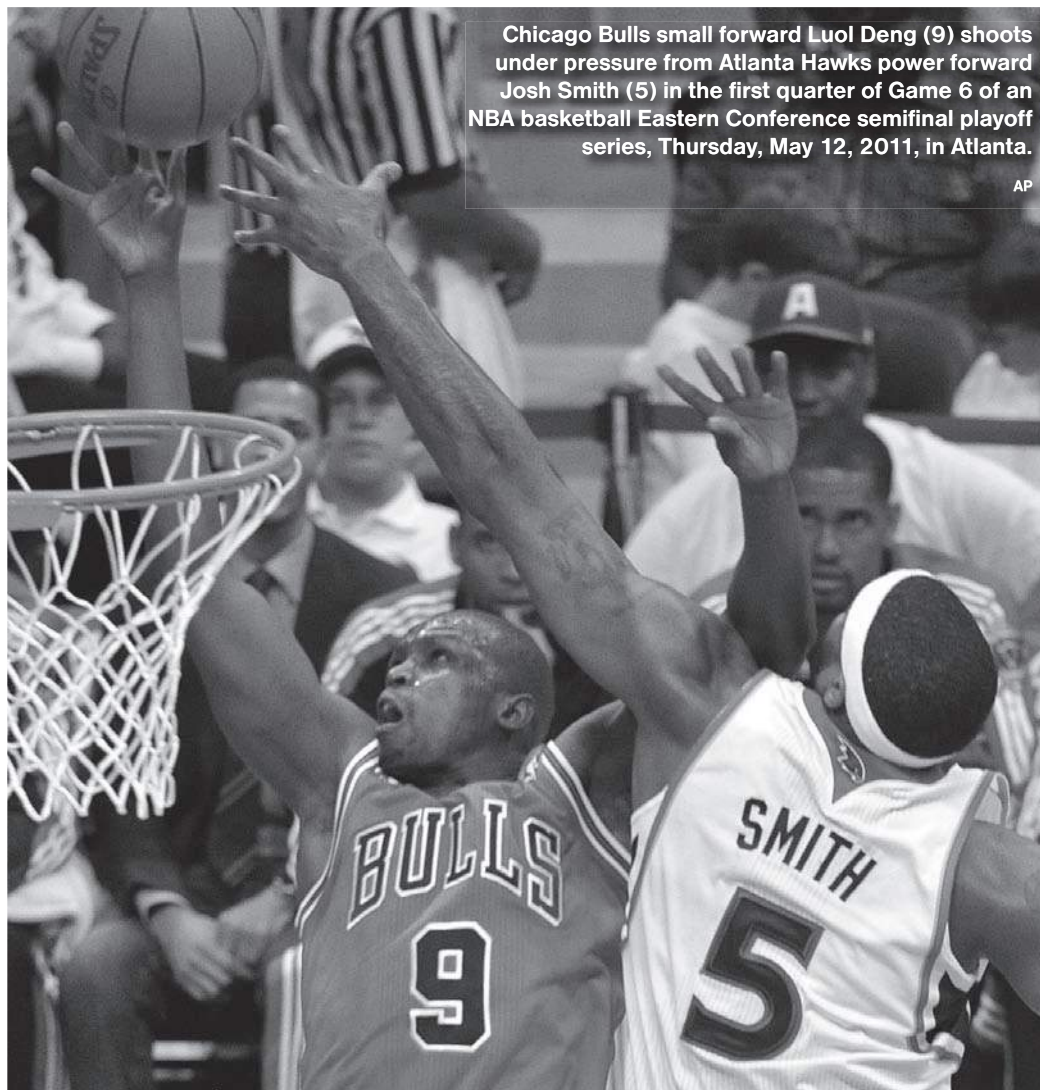
"It's huge for us to get this far," Rose said. "We're happy to get the conference finals, but we're not planning to stop right there."

The Bulls haven't been this far since 1998, when Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen were on their way to a second three-peat. Pippen sat near the Chicago bench, relishing a new generation that's carried his old team into contention for another championship.

"When we showed up for training camp, we knew we could be special," Rose said. "We were ready to put in the work and not be concerned with statistics. We just were concerned with winning each night."

As if to prove his point, Rose took a playoff-low 14 shots and finished with 19 points, his second-lowest total of the post-season. This was a textbook performance by the guys around him, each of them comfortable in a supporting role, each of them willing to do the dirty work at the defensive end.

The most impressive number: Chicago had assists on all but seven of its 41 baskets. Or, come to think of it, maybe it was this stat: The Hawks shot just 37 percent (27 of 74) and rarely got an



Chicago Bulls small forward Luol Deng (9) shoots under pressure from Atlanta Hawks power forward Josh Smith (5) in the first quarter of Game 6 of an NBA basketball Eastern Conference semifinal playoff series, Thursday, May 12, 2011, in Atlanta.

AP

open look.

"If anything, our defense won this game," said Rose, who had been averaging nearly 30 points a game in the playoffs.

At the other end, Boozer kept winding up with the ball with no one around, and kept knocking down jump shots. He went 10-of-16 from the field, grabbed 10 rebounds and handed out five assists.

"D-Rose gets so much attention," said Boozer, who had been bothered by a toe injury and come under criticism at home for inconsistent play. "The 15-footer was

open for me. I shot it."

Luol Deng hit some big baskets early and finished with 13 points, plus five steals. Joakim Noah scored 11 and stifled the Hawks with three blocks. Omer Asik chipped in with two swats of his own. Keith Bogans made only one basket, but it was a big 3-pointer as the Bulls put it away in the third quarter.

And, boy, did everyone play some defense.

"What goes underrated about them is the depth of their team," said Atlanta's Al Horford, who had a miserable night and a tough

series overall. "They just wear on you. They just kept coming, kept coming every game. It seemed like their starters were fresh."

The Bulls fell on hard times after the glorious M.J. era, including three straight 60-loss seasons. But they have put together a deep, talented team that won more games than anyone during the regular season.

Yep, even more than the ballyhooed Heat, whose collection of stars runs three-deep with LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh, who came together in south Florida knowing

anything less than a title would be considered a failure.

First, they'll have to get by the Bulls.

Game 1 is Sunday in Chicago.

"It's going to be a great matchup," Rose said. "We're fine with being considered the underdog."

Atlanta had hoped to extend this series to a Game 7, feeling the pressure would be squarely on the Bulls if it came down to a winner-take-all. But Chicago squashed those hopes right from the opening tip. The Bulls never trailed, and the lead was 10 by the end of the first quarter.

The Hawks had been in that position before. They fell behind by 15 in Game 5, then fought back to lead early in the fourth quarter. Chicago dominated down the stretch for a 13-point win, but the Bulls weren't about to cut it that close again.

With the loss, Atlanta extended an infamous playoff mark: The Hawks have never advanced past the second round since moving from St. Louis in 1968.

Joe Johnson led the Hawks with 19 points. Josh Smith was the only other player in double figures with 18. The Hawks went 1-of-11 from beyond the 3-point arc.

"They just got on a roll," Johnson said. "Boozer probably had his best game that he played all series. ... You have him scoring and playing big like that, obviously they're going to be tough to beat."

Deng went down early, landing hard after Smith got a piece of him going for the block. Deng was OK, staying in the game to shoot a pair of free throws after a timeout.

Then Atlanta got its own scare early in the second quarter. Jeff Teague, the fill-in point guard who had been the surprise of the

series, had a nasty fall along the baseline. He went straight to the X-ray room, his right arm dangling limply beside him as he trotted off in obvious pain.

Nothing was broken, but it turned out both wrists were sprained. He returned late in the second quarter all taped up, but it didn't help much. During breaks, he rubbed at the tape and kept flexing his wrist. The second-year player wasn't a factor, scoring just 4 points on 2-of-6 shooting.

"It was pretty bad," Teague said. "It was pretty tough to hold the ball. There was no way I could shoot the ball."

But he was hardly the only one who struggled. Horford, who had been named to the All-NBA third team earlier in the day, went 2-of-10. So did Jamal Crawford, the victim of persistent double-teaming ever since he had a big game in Atlanta's surprising Game 1 win.

Chicago led by as many as 17 in the first half, with Boozer leading the way. He had 13 points, four rebounds and two assists at the break.

Atlanta made a late surge, the crowd on its feet when Smith pulled off a spectacular dunk on a lob from Johnson—despite getting a shove from Noah as he was soaring toward the hoop.

But a big call went against Smith, costing the Hawks a chance to cut the gap to single figures before halftime. He scored off another fast break, and the referees had to confer before ruling the Rose had drawn the offensive foul. Smith grabbed his head in disbelief and pleaded with the officials, to no avail.

Chicago settled for a 45-35 halftime lead and never let the margin below double figures over the final two quarters.

Nick Watney opens with a 64 as Woods exits early

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Phil Mickelson hit a shot onto the green and it rolled into the water. Ben Crane hit a shot over an island and it wound up on dry land. Tiger Woods played the shortest tournament of his career.

Even on a relatively calm day, there's no predicting what might happen at The Players Championship.

The strangest sight of all Thursday was Woods, limping off the ninth green and heading to the parking lot, but not before making a detour to a fitness trailer with a sign painted on the side that said, "Is knee pain holding you back?"

Nine holes into this first tournament since the Masters—where Woods said he had a "minor injury" to his left knee and Achilles—he couldn't go on. He withdrew after a 42 on the front nine, his highest 9-hole score ever at the TPC Sawgrass.

"I'm having a hard time walking," he said.

Nick Watney and so many others made it look easy, even though it rarely is on this crazy course.

One week after he missed the cut for the first time in nearly a year, Watney opened with an 8-under 64 for a one-shot lead over Lucas Glover. Not only was it Watney's best score at Sawgrass by four shots, he had a double bogey early in his round.

"Last week in Charlotte, I got off to a bad start and I never really righted the ship," Watney said. "So today to have a bad hole like that and still play a good round is a rewarding feeling, just because I didn't let it affect the rest of my day."

Glover atop the leaderboard was not unusual, not after he won last week at the Wells Fargo Championship to end a two-year drought since his U.S. Open title. He played the par-5 16th and the par-3 17th in eight shots, but not the way he would have thought. He hit into the water on the 16th to make bogey on the easiest hole at Saw-

grass, then knocked in a 20-foot birdie on the island-green 17th.

There were plenty of other surprises.

Mark O'Meara, the 54-year-old who qualified for this prestigious event by winning the Senior Players Championship, returned to Sawgrass for the first time since 2003 and opened with a 66.

The last time O'Meara had a score that low on this course, Woods was still in high school. He's not very long off the tee, but this is one golf course that is not all about length.

"Even when I went to dinner with Tiger last night, my wife Meredith said, 'How's Mark hitting it?' He says, 'Short.' OK, yeah, I'm not 32 and strong," O'Meara said. "But I hit it far enough."

Davis Toms also had a 66, and he managed to do that without a single bogey on his card.

PGA champion Martin Kaymer, who can return to No. 1 in

the world by winning or finishing alone in second this week, opened with a 67 along with U.S. Open champion Graeme McDowell and Rory Sabbatini. Kaymer was witness to the biggest news of the day.

He was in the group with Matt Kuchar and Woods, although it became a twosome on the back nine when Woods left.

"Nobody really knows how much pain he was in," Kaymer said. "He was walking really slowly. He was walking behind us. But I didn't know that it was because of pain or I just thought that he walks a little slower than me."

Crane shot a 68, a round highlighted because of a bogey.

On the infamous island-green 17th, Crane caught a gust of wind as the ball was in flight and it took over the green. But the ball landed on the back of the wooden frame and bounced so far that it cleared the water and landed among the spectators. He then

faced a scary pitch back to the island and hit the bulkhead in about the same spot, the ball rolling to the front of the green.

He two-putted from 50 feet for his bogey, which could have been much worse.

"A crazy day, a crazy game," Crane said.

Mickelson might have chosen a different word. He saw his tee shot land on the front corner of the green at No. 13, then begin rolling toward the bottom shelf until it dropped over the ledge.

"I didn't know it could possibly go in the water," Mickelson said after a 71. "I think when I design golf courses, I try not to screw the player like that. I try to keep it a little bit fair. But those things happen."

Fortunes can turn quickly, as Watney showed.

He was never in the hunt at Quail Hollow and never looked particularly happy. But he was grinning and laughing with swing coach Butch Harmon on the range, and he came out firing.

"I was definitely disappointed," Watney said. "But I figured there were two ways to react—you either sulk about it or come here. I flew here Saturday, did a little bit of work Sunday, just figured I'd get on with it and use it as motivation."

He holed a 15-foot putt on the 10th hole, got up-and-down from the bunker on the par-5 11th and nearly holed his approach on the 12th. Then came the 14th, where Watney was caught in the large mounds right of the fairway. He chopped up one shot and three-putted from medium range for a double bogey, then bounced back with a birdie on the next hole.

His highlight came on the par-5 second, when he holed out a bunker shot for eagle.

Glover also made birdie on his first hole, which doesn't mean much over the course of four days, but meant plenty to him.

"Got things going," Glover said. "Just the confidence from last week, from looking up and seeing the ball where I'm looking instead of not. And that's been an issue."

THE PLAYERS

Rays' hot road form continues, beat Indians



CLEVELAND
(AP)—Tampa Bay's irresistible road form proved

too much for Cleveland's impressive home record as the Rays beat the Indians 7-4 in Thursday's clash of American League divisional leaders.

Tampa Bay has won 10 of 11 on the road and owns the majors' best mark away from home at 13-5. Cleveland lost for just the second time in 16 home games.

Rays starter James Shields (4-1) gave up two runs in seven innings. Cleveland had been the only AL team he hadn't beaten, previously holding an 0-4 record against the Indians.

Reid Brignac, Sam Fuld and Evan Longoria had two RBIs apiece as the Rays handed Justin Masterson (5-1) his first loss this season.

Royals 11, Yankees 5

In New York, the hosts lost their first series of the season, beaten by Kansas City.

Eric Hosmer and Melky Cabrera homered for the Royals, who had a season-high 16 hits. Ten of them came off Ivan Nova (3-3) who last only three innings in the shortest start of his career.

Kansas City starter Sean O'Sullivan (2-2) retired his first 13 batters before running into trouble, but pitched into the seventh.

New York dropped out of the AL East lead for the first time in a month as it prepares for a home series against archrival Boston.

Orioles 2, Mariners 1, 12 innings

In Baltimore, J.J. Hardy singled in two runs in the 12th inning as Baltimore edged Seattle for a three-game sweep.

After Seattle scored in the top half



Tampa Bay Rays' Evan Longoria, top, is forced out at home by Cleveland Indians catcher Carlos Santana on a fielder's choice infield grounder by Rays batter Elliot Johnson in the second inning of a baseball game in Cleveland on Thursday, May 12, 2011.

of the 12th, the Orioles bounced back in the bottom half against Brandon League (0-3). Derrek Lee hit a leadoff single, and League hit two batters with

pitches to load the bases with no outs.

After one out, Hardy followed with a bouncer up the middle that scored Lee and pinch-runner Jake Fox as Balti-

more recorded its second extra-inning comeback win in the series.

League, who hit only two batters with pitches all last year, was 9 for 9 in save opportunities before blowing two in three games against the Orioles.

Seattle had gone ahead in the 12th when Miguel Olivo drove in Ichiro Suzuki.

Braves 6, Nationals 5

In Atlanta, Martin Prado hit a tying grand slam in the seventh inning, then scored the winning run in the 10th inning to give the Atlanta Braves a victory over the Washington Nationals.

Doug Slaten (0-1) walked Prado to open the 10th inning, and Prado advanced to second on Nate McLouth's sacrifice bunt. After an intentional walk, Brian McCann singled to right field for the walk-off winner.

Craig Kimbrel (1-1) struck out the side in the 10th to earn the victory.

Chipper Jones also homered for the Braves.

Cardinals 9, Cubs 1

In Chicago, unbeaten Jaime Garcia pitched seven effective innings to guide St. Louis to a comfortable win over Chicago.

Garcia (5-0), who carried a perfect game into the eighth in his previous start, allowed just one run. He complemented that by hitting a key RBI single.

St. Louis finished with 16 hits and took two of three in the series without manager Tony La Russa, who is recovering from shingles.

Matt Holliday led off a five-run second inning with a homer off Casey Coleman (1-3) that cleared the bleachers in left field. Colby Rasmus singled, Yadier Molina doubled and an intentional walk to bring up the pitcher loaded the bases. But Garcia

foiled that strategy with an RBI single, Jon Jay followed with a two-run double and Allen Craig hit a sacrifice fly to make it 5-0.

Mets 9, Rockies 5

In Denver, Carlos Beltran hit a career-high three homers and drove in six runs to help New York beat Colorado.

In a game delayed more than two hours by rain, Beltran homered from both sides of the plate and reached all parts of the ballpark with his three two-run homers: center in the first, left in the seventh and over right field in the ninth.

He became the eighth Mets player to hit three in a game, and first since 2006.

Rockies ace Ubaldo Jimenez (0-3) departed in the fourth and kept the Rockies' ace searching for his elusive first win of the season. He conceded five runs while walking six.

Colorado fell out of at least a tie for the lead in the NL West for the first time in five weeks. The Rockies have now dropped six of their past seven.

Relying on his curveball, Mets starter Jonathon Niese (2-4) was solid for 6 1-3 innings.

Giants 3, Diamondbacks 2

In San Francisco, Nate Schierholtz had three hits to help San Francisco beat Arizona and complete a perfect homestand.

Eli Whiteside doubled twice to help the Giants go 6-0 at home, sweeping Colorado then Arizona to extend their season-high winning streak to six games.

Arizona, which has lost four straight, scored twice in the eighth and had the tying run at third base with one out in the ninth before Javier Lopez got the final two outs for his first save in nearly five years.

Giants starter Matt Cain (3-2) notched his first win in nearly a month.

NFL players ask for \$707M in damages in TV dispute



MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Seeking more clout in their fight with the NFL, locked-out players asked a federal judge Thursday to make \$4

billion in disputed broadcast revenue off limits to the league and to award them at least \$707 million in damages, too.

U.S. District Judge David Doty took the request under advisement after a two-hour hearing that included arguments from attorneys for the league and the players.

Jeffrey Kessler, an attorney for the players, urged Doty to rule quickly on the request to put the \$4 billion "war chest" in escrow because of the ongoing lockout. The players have argued that the league can make it through the work stoppage in part because it illegally secured that money by renegotiating TV contracts for 2011 that allows the NFL to get paid even if there are no games to televise.

Gregg Levy, an attorney for the league, said the players have no right to damages, and he accused them of "sandbagging and ambush."

Levy told reporters afterward the league never intended to finance a work stoppage with money from the networks. He said the players don't have the right to access the money, however, and balked at the proposal for

an escrow arrangement.

"It would in effect give the players some entitlement to that money which we don't believe they are entitled to," Levy said.

The damages award alone could amount to a huge piece of leverage for the players in their fight with the NFL over the next collective bargaining agreement. And so could making the broadcast money off limits.

"I think that the owners predicated a lot of their strategy in having a revenue stream for 2011," said Marc Greenbaum, a labor law professor at Suffolk University Law School in Boston who is following the case. "If Judge Doty grants the players' request, an important part of their strategy is undermined."

None of the team owners or high-ranking league officials attended the hearing. Players Ben Leber, Chester Pitts and Steve Smith were present, as was the head of the NFL Players Association, DeMaurice Smith.

Leber is one of the 10 named plaintiffs in the federal antitrust lawsuit against the league pending before one of Doty's colleagues, U.S. District Judge Susan Richard Nelson.

On March 1, 10 days before the lockout began, Doty ruled that the NFL failed to maximize revenues for the players, essentially leaving money on

the table for the last two years to gain leverage in the labor fight. He described it as an "unconscionable advantage."

That order overruled a special master's decision in February to award \$6.9 million in damages to the players for an extra Sunday night game given to NBC last season, but it left open the chance for the players to seek more damages over the objections of the league.

"We continue to believe that the special master got it right, that Judge Doty's findings did not give adequate deference to the special master and we are hopeful that Judge Doty will look at this record and see that the players' claims for damages and injunctive relief need not go beyond and should not go beyond what the special master ordered," Levy told reporters.

Thomas Heiden, another attorney for the players, accused the league of manipulating broadcasters to serve as banks for the lockout.

In addition to the \$707 million, the players are also seeking unspecified damages for other alleged breaches, including digital and advertising rights. The extra NBC game, the players argued, was worth \$39 million, which would entitle them to more than \$15 million based on their 57.5 percent share of TV revenue in the CBA that expired March 11.

The players have also asked for at

least three times the total amount of compensation awarded by the court.

The TV revenue fight is a separate battle from the court fight over the lockout, though Doty's decisions will almost surely influence the tack of attorneys for both sides.

Nelson ordered the lockout lifted on April 25, saying it is irreparably harming the players and their careers. The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has put the order on hold pending a June 3 hearing in St. Louis.

The NFL asked the appeals court for an expedited decision to keep the issue from lingering too far into the summer, but in the broadcast contracts case the league doesn't have such incentive and Levy made that clear to Doty.

"In our view it's most important that you get it right than you race to get it done," Levy said.

The players, meanwhile, asked for a quick injunction that would keep the \$4 billion off limits to the league until the NFL's first work stoppage since 1987 is settled. Doty described that as a request to "put my thumb on the scale" and push along the process.

"They have illegally obtained a very large thumb that they have inserted in the players' eye," Kessler responded. And in concluding his remarks, Kessler waved his arms and pointed to Leber,

Pitts and Smith, saying: "They're being hurt irreparably."

Later, Kessler stressed to reporters the importance to the players of putting the war chest in escrow: "That makes a difference to players, to fans, to communities right now. Damages, we can enjoy a little bit later if the court needs more time, but we do hope we'll get the injunction right away."

Doty has consistently ruled for the players since he began handling NFL labor cases in the late 1980s. He opened the hearing by chiding both sides for their inability to reach an agreement and achieve labor peace to ensure a 2011 season.

"I'll be honest with you. I didn't think we would have this hearing, and I'm a bit disappointed that we are having it," Doty said. "Judges don't like to make decisions in business matters like this. We like you to do it, but if we have to we will."

He also sounded sentimental when noting this could be the last time he presides over such a hearing since Nelson has the new case.

The 81-year-old Doty tried to keep the mood light, jokingly suggesting to Levy at one point during a disagreement that they should continue their discussion over a beer sometime. Doty also teased Kessler about his penchant for exceeding time limits on his arguments: "When he gets wound up like that, it's awfully hard to get him off the stage."

IT&E Voyagers, Best Choice take top spots



IT&E Voyagers and D’Pirates Bar & Grill’s Best Choice still lead their respective Agin-gan and Obyan divisions as the Saipan Billiards Association’s Budweiser Open 8-Ball League continued Tuesday night.

IT&E Voyagers shut out D’Pirates Pirates, 7-0, at home at Jonny’s Bar & Grill and now hold a five-game lead in the four-member Agingan Division with a 55-22 win-loss record.

Utopia Bar’s Docomo Hus-tlers, Jonny’s Home Boyz, and Buddies’ Bar & Grill’s IT&E In-credibles all share identical 50-27 records in the Agingan Division.



SBA Budweiser Open 8-Ball League’s Obyan division Turtles (26-51), pictured in this file photo, upset top-ranked and sister team Fotten Palau, 4-3 at home at USSP Peleliu Club Tuesday night.

Agingan notables include one-time 8-ball sinkers Home Boyz’s Mario Diola and IT&E Voyagers’ Jojo Talibong, while IT&E In-credibles’ Chester Hamoy ran the rack five times this season.

Best Choice, meanwhile, lost to Home Boyz, 3-4, at home, but still sits five games ahead of USSP Peleliu Club’s Fotten Palau (34-43) in the six-team Obyan Division with a 39-38 card.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BACK-TO-BACK

From Page 28

The Lady Geckos held the Knights to only one point in the third period to cruise to an easy win and duplicate their 48-32 triumph in last season’s finals.

The back-to-back champions’ 1-2 punch—center Zoe Jewell and point guard Amber Rob-erts—delivered most of the dam-age for the Lady Geckos. Roberts did a good job quarterbacking for SIS, feeding Jewell and company in the wings with her extra pass-es. Jewell finished a game-high 16 points, while Roberts chipped in eight and a handful of assists.

Amy Hudkins also contributed on offense for the Lady Geckos, tallying eight points. Celine Ca-macho added six.

On defense, the Lady Geckos were busy all four quarters with theirs hands up, denying MCS players a clear view of the bas-ket and the passing lanes.

With Jewell, Hudkins, and Camacho, who had four points each, getting passes from Rob-erts early on, SIS took a 15-7 lead in the first period. Only Keolani Lebria and Michelle Kautz scored for MCS in the opening canto, nailing two and five, respectively.

In the second quarter, the two teams were pretty even

with SIS making 11 against MCS’ 10 for the Lady Geckos 26-17 halftime lead.

The SIS’ advantage ballooned to as much as 14 in the third quarter, as SIS players’ long arms prevented MCS gunners an open look at their targets. After a long silence, Mt. Car-mel finally scored off Savana Manglona’s split charities in the last 40 seconds of the third pe-riod, which ended with SIS still ahead, 32-18.

The Mt. Carmel drought was extended in the first two min-utes of the fourth canto before Lebria canned an open jumper for their first field goal in the second half. However, Lebria’s

Obyan notables include one-time 8-ball sinkers Nong Detdon and Bill Limes of Shark Attack and X-Tream’s George Lizardo, along with one-time rack run-ners Sam Babauta of Shark At-tack, Tero Takai of Best Choice, John Mongami and Arnel Orbita of Fotten Palau, Patrick Cepeda of Turtles, and X-tream players Chester Cuento, Bobby Lozano, and Joey Agulto.

In other results the USSP Turtles (26-51) upset Fotten Palau, 4-3, at home; Hustlers shrugged off Shark Attack (29-48), 6-1, at home; and IT&E Icredibles ran over VFW Post 3457 X-Tream (31-46), 6-1, on the road. (Walter Cepeda-Sutherland)

basket was not enough to spark a Lady Knights rally, while Rob-erts continued an impressive job in controlling the game for the Lady Geckos, allowing SIS to defend its title.

Meanwhile, the boys var-sity title game was also played yesterday with Grace Christian Academy taking on MCS, but results of the match were un-available at press time.

SIS 40 – Jewell 16, Roberts 8, Hudkins 8, C. Camacho 6.

MCS 28 – M. Kautz 16, Lebria 6, R. Kautz 4, Sablan 2, Manglona 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-7, 26-17, 32-18, 40-28.

BLUE HAUZ

From Page 28

Blue Hauz then pressed on to a 40-29 lead at the half thanks to a trio of 3-pointers.

After the break, Blue Hauz padded its lead, as Rodney Sac-ramento came off the bench with nine points and a hand-ful of steals to give the team a 60-45 spread heading into the fourth and final canto.

Mobil tried to stage a comeback and scored a whopping 31 points in the fourth quarter, but Blue Hauz held it together for the win.

Sablan did not have to carry much of the offensive load in this matchup, but still finished with a team-high 20 points. Mobil’s Jun Estolas delivered 21 in the loss

In Monday’s nightcap, Jesse Mina drained three 3-pointers in the opening 10 minutes to stake Prospects to 22-20 edge, but the

Ferrera Builders fought back in the second quarter and managed a 41-36 margin at the break.

Mina was held to one bucket in the period, while Ferrara Builders’ Kae Bernardo led his unit with 13 points in the half.

Prospects made some key adjustments that held Ferrara Builders to 13 points in the third period as they clawed back to a reclaim the lead, 55-54, heading into crunch time.

Then the game went into overtime after a back-and-fourth final period, but the Fer-rera Builders surged ahead in the extra five minutes thanks to the nine points of Bernardo.

In the opener, Konflikt nailed three long balls in the opening period to manage a slim, 20-19, lead, but Smart Cagers buckled down on defense in the second quarter and built a four-point lead, 38-34, lead at the half.

Smart Cagers answered with

three teardrops from behind the arc in the period.

Smart Cagers’ Pete Iguel and Konflikt’s Elmer Esdrelon each led their squads with 13 points apiece in the first half.

Smart Cagers stretched it to a 60-54 advantage in the third quarter thanks largely to the 10 markers of Darwin Barbo. Smart Cagers stayed true to its name and held off Konflikt in the final canto.

Smart Cagers’ Iguel and Barbo combined for 44 points, while Esdrelon turned in a team high 20 in the loss.

WEDNESDAY

Blue Hauz 83 – Sablan 20, Sacramento 17, Fitial 15, Santos 12, Tabora 6, Aquino 5, Mateo 3, Tenorio 3, Talanía 2.

Mobil 76 – Estolas 21, Ra-bauliman 16, Ruluked 16, Gam-boá 7, De Guzman 6, Maratita 6, Sharry 4.

Scoring by quarters: 17-13,

40-29, 60-45, 83-76.

MONDAY First Game

Smart Cagers 83 – Iguel 24, Barbo 20, Peredo 15, De Dios 7, Montano 6, Mancio 4, Park 3, Dayrit 2.

Konflikt 80 – Esdrelon 20, Joyner 15, Mangali 13, Capalad 7, Tamayo 6, Libuw 5, Arreza 4, Mendoza 4, Tumaquip 2, Umali 2.

Scoring by Quarters: 19-20, 38-34, 60-54, 83-80.

Second Game

Ferrera Builders 87 – Ber-nardo 32, Yabut 13, Abuy 12, David 9, Demapan 9, Miranda 8, Cruz 3, Mungcal 1.

Prospects 77 – Je. Mina 20, Abedes 17, Augenbaugh 8, Ma-bini 7, Ortes 4, Inos 3, Sablan 3, Johannes 3, Bautista 2, Lansang 2, Jr. Mina 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-22, 41-36, 54-55, 71-71, (OT) 87-77.

ary for his record-breaking swims in the 200m individual medley (3:08.36), 100m butter-fly (1:28.95), 100m backstroke (1:34.11), 50m breaststroke (48.35 seconds), 50m backstroke (42.82 seconds), and 50m butter-fly (40.02 seconds) events in the 2011 Saipan Swim Club Inter-national Invitational Meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

The March title went to Mar-atita after he lifted Kagman High School to a championship win in the 2011 Settsu-Saipan Friend-ship Basketball Tournament.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	22	15	.595	—
New York	20	15	.571	1
Baltimore	17	19	.472	4 1/2
Boston	17	20	.459	5
Toronto	17	20	.459	5

Central Division

Cleveland	23	13	.639	—
Kansas City	20	17	.541	3 1/2
Detroit	20	18	.526	4
Chicago	15	23	.395	9
Minnesota	12	23	.343	10 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	21	17	.553	—
Oakland	19	18	.514	1 1/2
Texas	19	18	.514	1 1/2
Seattle	16	22	.421	5

NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division

Philadelphia	24	12	.667	—
Florida	21	15	.583	3
Atlanta	21	18	.538	4 1/2
Washington	18	19	.486	6 1/2
New York	17	20	.459	7 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	22	16	.579	—
Cincinnati	20	17	.541	1 1/2
Pittsburgh	18	19	.486	3 1/2
Chicago	16	20	.444	5
Milwaukee	16	21	.432	5 1/2
Houston	14	23	.378	7 1/2

West Division

San Francisco	21	16	.568	—
Colorado	19	16	.543	1
Los Angeles	18	20	.474	3 1/2
Arizona	15	21	.417	5 1/2
San Diego	15	22	.405	6

Yesterday’s Games

St. Louis 9, Chicago Cubs 1	
N.Y. Mets 9, Colorado 5	
San Francisco 3, Arizona 2	
L.A. Dodgers at Pittsburgh, ppd., rain	
Atlanta 6, Washington 5, 10 innings	
Tampa Bay 7, Cleveland 4	
Kansas City 11, N.Y. Yankees 5	
Baltimore 2, Seattle 1, 12 innings	

THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Florida (AP)—Scores Thursday from the \$9.5-million Players Championship at the par-72 (36-36), 7,215-yard TPC Sawgrass - Stadium Course

FIRST ROUND

Nick Watney	30-34—64
Lucas Glover	31-34—65
Mark O’Meara	34-32—66
David Toms	33-33—66
Martin Kaymer	33-34—67
Rory Sabbatini	35-32—67
Fredrik Jacobson	35-32—67
Graeme McDowell	35-32—67
Alvaro Quiros	35-32—67
Davis Love III	34-34—68
Ben Crane	33-35—68
J.B. Holmes	34-34—68
Jason Dufner	32-37—69
Brian Davis	32-37—69
Y.E. Yang	36-33—69
Matt Kuchar	33-36—69
Luke Donald	35-34—69
Robert Allenby	34-35—69
Troy Merritt	34-35—69
Jeff Overton	36-33—69
Jason Day	35-34—69
Steve Stricker	35-34—69
Kris Blanks	34-35—69
Paul Goydos	33-36—69
Charlie Wi	35-35—70
Bryce Molder	34-36—70
Garrett Willis	36-34—70
Justin Leonard	35-35—70
Mark Wilson	35-35—70
Angel Cabrera	35-35—70
K.J. Choi	35-35—70
Justin Rose	37-33—70
Steve Marino	34-36—70
Ricky Barnes	35-35—70
David Duval	36-34—70
Ryan Palmer	35-35—70
Trevor Immelman	35-35—70
Ian Poulter	36-34—70
Aaron Baddeley	36-34—70
Webb Simpson	35-35—70
Hunter Mahan	34-36—70
Stewart Cink	35-35—70
Kevin Streelman	37-33—70
Shaun Micheel	35-36—71
Ben Curtis	37-34—71
Chris Couch	36-35—71
Sean O’Hair	34-37—71
Heath Slocum	36-35—71
Brian Gay	34-37—71
Paul Casey	38-33—71
Jonathan Byrd	36-35—71
Michael Bradley	37-34—71
Louis Oosthuizen	37-34—71
Kevin Chappell	35-36—71
Robert Karlsson	36-35—71
Ryan Moore	36-35—71
Phil Mickelson	34-37—71
Jim Furyk	34-37—71
Jason Bohn	36-35—71
Chris Stroud	35-36—71
Kevin Sutherland	37-35—72
Josh Teater	37-35—72
Blake Adams	37-35—72
Ernie Els	37-35—72
Chris Riley	37-35—72
Matt Jones	37-35—72
Spencer Levin	35-37—72
Martin Laird	35-37—72
Dustin Johnson	37-35—72
Charl Schwartzel	35-37—72
Cameron Beckman	35-37—72
Rocco Mediate	37-35—72
Charley Hoffman	38-34—72
Kenny Perry	37-35—72
Andres Romero	36-36—72
Corey Pavin	36-36—72
Matteo Manassero	35-37—72
Alex Cejka	34-38—72
Edoardo Molinari	33-39—72
Hunter Haas	35-37—72
Peter Hanson	35-37—72
J.P. Hayes	36-37—73
Greg Chalmers	37-36—73
Jerry Kelly	37-36—73
Padraig Harrington	34-39—73
Carl Pettersson	36-37—73
John Rollins	36-37—73
Scott Verplank	36-37—73
Ryuji Imada	36-37—73
Kevin Na	37-36—73
Ross Fisher	37-36—73
Kevin Stadler	38-35—73
Joe Durant	36-37—73
Michael Connell	36-37—73
Arjun Atwal	36-37—73
Brandt Snedeker	35-38—73
Retief Goosen	36-37—73
Bill Lunde	37-36—73
Chad Campbell	38-35—73
Charles Howell III	38-35—73
J.J. Henry	36-38—74
Derek Lamely	37-37—74
Bill Haas	37-37—74
Tim Clark	36-38—74
Sergio Garcia	34-40—74
Zach Johnson	36-38—74
Chad Collins	35-39—74
Anthony Kim	38-36—74
Robert Garrigus	37-37—74
D.A. Points	39-35—74
Camilo Villegas	37-37—74
Johnson Wagner	38-36—74
Brandt Jobe	37-38—75
Boo Weekley	38-37—75
Vijay Singh	42-33—75
Tommy Gainey	34-41—75
Tim Petrovic	38-37—75
D.J. Trahan	40-35—75
Gary Woodland	36-39—75
Geoff Ogilvy	35-40—75
Alex Prugh	40-35—75
Keegan Bradley	38-37—75
Chris Kirk	36-40—76
Michael Sim	38-38—76
Pat Perez	38-38—76
Bubba Watson	38-38—76
Adam Scott	38-38—76
Bo Van Pelt	37-39—76
Nick O’Hern	36-40—76
John Senden	37-39—76
Vaughn Taylor	40-36—76
Stuart Appleby	42-34—76
Francesco Molinari	39-37—76
Stephen Ames	36-41—77
Jimmy Walker	38-39—77
Dean Wilson	35-42—77
Rickie Fowler	38-39—77
Troy Matteson	39-39—78
Brendan Steele	40-38—78
Jhonattan Vegas	39-39—78
Henrik Stenson	38-41—79
Matt Bettencourt	38-41—79
Marc Leishman	43-38—81
Brendon de Jonge	40-41—81
Tiger Woods	WD

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MINOR

From Page 28

took the January title after winning a doubles event in the 2011 Goulburn Valley Junior Cham-pionships in Australia and com-peting in two other events in the Land Down Under.

Then in March, the Saipan Southern High School stu-dent was selected again for the monthly award after notching two singles crown (girls U18 and open) and two doubles (mixed and women’s open) dur-

ing the 11th Annual PIC Tennis Championships.

The 15-year-old netter got her January and March medals from TSL Foundation manager Ed Arriola in a brief presenta-tion and was joined by fellow awardee Tammy Ackerman.

Ackerman claimed the Feb-ruary Female Athlete of the Month award after a dominating performance in the 2011 White Coconut Tennis Classic.

The Saipan Community School student won the girls U12 singles and then teamed up with Peter Loyola in clinching the mixed up

doubles championship.

Besides Ackerman and Mi-nor, three other athletes were honored, but failed to personally receive their medals. They were bowling’s Marion McKenzie, swimming’s Lukas Kang, and basketball’s Juan Maratita.

McKenzie was selected the top male student athlete in Janu-ary after pulling off an upset over M.J. Aldan in the 2010 Saipan Bowling Association-Budweiser Prince/Princess of the Lanes Tournament.

Kang was named the best male student athlete in Febru-



Rays' hot road form continues, beat Indians

26

Saipan Tribune Sports

Chicago off to 1st conference final since '98

25



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2011

Back-to-back for Lady Geckos

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan International School successfully defended its girls varsity title after a methodical 40-28 dismantling of Mt. Carmel School in the championship game in the 2010-2011 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Basketball League yesterday at the TSL Sports Complex.



See BACK-TO-BACK on Page 27

Blue Hauz shocks Mobil, 83-76

By WALTER CEPEDAS-SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Blue Hauz defeated Mobil, 83-76, in last Wednesday's QQ Car Rental Invitational Basketball Cup matchup at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Blue Hauz gave the defending champions its first loss of the season, while back on Monday Ferrera Builders rallied over Prospects, 87-77, in overtime and Smart Cagers bested Konflikt, 83-80.

Dave Sablan and Kelvin Fitial combined for 13 markers as Blue Hauz controlled the tempo from the tip off and built an early 17-13 lead in the first quarter.

See BLUE on Page 27



Blue Hauz's Rodney Sacramento converts on a quick layup after snatching an inbounds pass in last Wednesday's QQ Car Rental caging game against Mobil at the Garapan Basketball Court.



Saipan International School's Zoe Jewell, left, goes up for a basket against Mt. Carmel School's Ry Anne Camacho during the second quarter of their title game in the girls varsity division of the COP-SSA caging yesterday at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Minor takes home two monthly awards



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Thea Minor, seen here getting ready to serve during last month's CNMI championships, won the NMASA/TSL Foundation female student awards for January and March.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



CNMI top junior tennis player Thea Minor received her much-awaited NMASA/Tan Siu Lin Foundation

monthly award during the medal presentation at the TSL Plaza last Wednesday.

Minor won the NMASA/Tan Siu Lin Foundation Female Student Athlete of the Month plums for January and March after her impressive performance in separate tournaments. She

See MINOR on Page 27

\$40K hole-in-one prizes jumpstart HANMI golf tourney

Bank of Hawaii, Century Insurance Co., and Traders Insurance Co. have stepped forward to sponsor the first hole-in-one prizes of the 10th Annual HANMI Charity Golf Classic Tournament on June 4 at Coral Ocean Point Resort.

According to the tournament committee, Bank of Hawaii will offer a \$25,000 prize, Century Insurance is putting up \$10,000 cash, while Traders Insurance Co. is sponsoring \$5,000 cash.

The first 144 paid registrants at this tournament will vie for cash and numerous in-kind prizes. Proceeds of the tournament will be contributed to the Mt. Tapochao Development Project being spearheaded by HANMI.

"We're seeing a positive response from sponsors again this year, and our hole-in-one

sponsors are setting the tone for what we expect to be another successful tournament with great prizes for all our winners," said tournament chair Das Krishnan.

Early bird tournament fee is \$100 for payments by June 1. The fee includes green fee and the awards banquet. The fee increases to \$120 on June 2. For an additional \$20, players may also compete for nearest to the pin, most accurate drive, and longest drive. The tournament will start at 7am. Registration forms will be available shortly at Coral Ocean Point, Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Marianas Country Club.

The tournament features six categories: Championship Flight, A Flight, B Flight, C

Flight, Seniors (55 years-and-over), and Ladies. Players in the Championship Flight must have 0-5 handicaps, while those in A Flight are 6-10 handicappers. The B Flight is for players with 11-17 handicap, while C Flight are for players with handicap above 18.

First place winners of all flights will receive \$500 and a trophy and second place finishers will receive \$300 and a trophy; and third place winners will receive \$200 and a trophy. First place winners will also receive a hotel stay at a HANMI member hotel.

Winners (champion, first runner-up, and second runner-up) for the female golfers will be determined using the double peoria handicap system. The awards banquet will be held at the Saipan Grand Hotel Seaside Hall at 6pm on tournament day. (HANMI)

